FRIDAY
January 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

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Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

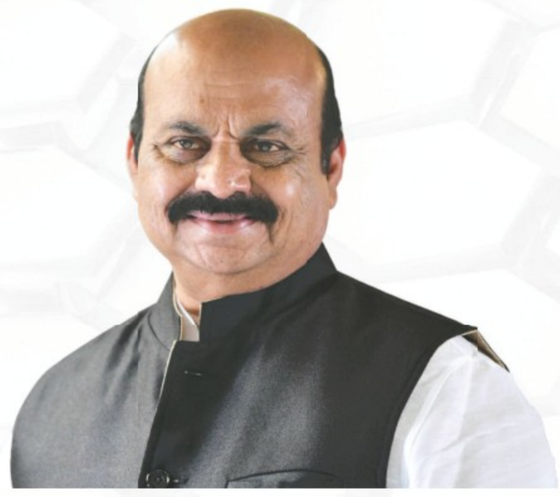
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

G20 भारत 2023 INDIA
वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्
ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) Presents



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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An initiative by
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

27th & 28th JANUARY
10 am to 6 pm

Tripuravasini, Palace Grounds
Bengaluru

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Exclusive Science Models On Display | Vintage Car Display

Sri. B. Sriramulu, Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Welfare and Transport participating in a Department programme

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Sri. Kota Srinivas Poojary, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare and Backward Class Welfare participating in a Department programme

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BATTLING COVID-19

India rolls out world's first intranasal vaccine

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GREEN MISSION FALTERS

States fall behind in forest cover

NEWS » PAGE 12

PRAISE FOR JAISHANKAR

'Visit helped boost India-Sri Lanka ties'

NEWS » PAGE 12

PARLEY

Is there a level playing field for sportswomen?

The wrestlers' protest is a revolutionary act

OPINION » PAGE 9

THE CHALLENGE BEGINS

India-NZ three-match T20 series from today

SPORT » PAGE 15

Hindenburg welcomes Adani Group's legal 'threat'

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A day after Hindenburg Research raised concern about the Adani Group's "substantial debts", the Gujarat-based conglomerate on Thursday said it was evaluating relevant provisions under the U.S. and Indian laws for remedial and punitive action against the U.S.-based short-seller.

In response, Hindenburg said it welcomed the "threat" of legal action. "We fully stand by our report and believe any legal action taken against us would be meritless."

The Adani Group's legal head, Jatin Jalundhwala, in a statement, had termed the report an "intentional and reckless attempt by a foreign entity" to mislead the investor community and the general public.

CONTINUED ON
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India displays indigenous arms and women power

At Republic Day parade, Indian-made field guns replace vintage model for 21-gun salute; at first parade with President Droupadi Murmu at the helm, Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is the chief guest

Mehul Malpani
Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

The drive for *atmanirbharta* or self-sufficiency in India's military strength and the key role of women in the armed forces were in the spotlight at the 74th Republic Day celebrations on Thursday, held at the renovated Kartavya Path, formerly Rajpath, in the national capital.

This year's parade was the first with President Droupadi Murmu at the helm. The celebrations had a chief guest – Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi – after two years without one owing to pandemic restrictions.

As the National Flag was unfurled on a cold and windy morning, the 21-gun salute was presented for the first time by Indian-made 105-mm field guns, replacing the seven vintage Quick Fire 25-pounder guns used since Independence. The change was in line with the Union government's push for the indigenous manufacture of defence equipment.

Made in India: The main battle tank Arjun of 75 Armoured Regiment rolls down the Kartavya Path in New Delhi. R.V. MOORTHY

The Army showcased more Made-in-India equipment, including its main battle tank, Arjun, the NAG missile system, the K-9 Vajra-T gun system, the Akash air defence system, and the BrahMos missile.

CONTINUED ON
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Governor lauds govt.'s achievements in R-Day speech

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Outlining the achievements of the Karnataka BJP government in 2022 and terming Karnataka one of the progressive States in the country, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday said 14 Amrit Mahotsav programmes – introduced on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – have been implemented successfully at various stages in the State.

DETAILS
» PAGE 2

EPFO's plan to review high pension payout cases sparks concern

What's in store

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation plans to re-examine the issue of higher pension

- EPFO's new circular provides for recovery from pensioners who have been granted higher pension without exercising the relevant option
- Some sections of 24,672 pensioners may be affected
- EPFO will seek an explanation from each of these pensioners before recovery
- The circular asks EPFO officials to be cautious in identifying cases of higher pension that has been granted due to judicial intervention

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

A circular issued by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on "re-examining" cases of higher pension for those who retired prior to September 1, 2014 has evoked concern among sections of such pensioners that they may lose the benefit they have been enjoying for the past five years or so.

The EPFO, in the circular issued on Wednesday, said payment of higher pension should be stopped "from the month of January" for those who retired without exercising any option under paragraph 11(3) of the pre-amended Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 but were granted pension on higher wages.

CONTINUED ON
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NEARBY

Political parties vying for Muslim votes

BENGALURU

Ahead of the Legislative Assembly elections in the State, a slew of political parties are in one-upmanship mode in making promises to court Muslim votes. » PAGE 4

Congress may release first list in Feb. second week

BENGALURU

Amidst a demand from ticket aspirants and leaders alike, the Congress is expected to release its first list of candidates for about 150 seats in the second week of February before the arrival Rahul Gandhi. » PAGE 4

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Vowed and wed

In union: A couple from the Chhara community participates in a ritual during a mass marriage ceremony on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. Ten couples from the community were wedded in the ceremony. AFP

Leopard that killed 11-year-old boy in T. Narsipur taluk trapped

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The leopard, which killed a 11-year-old boy at Horalahalli in T. Narsipur taluk on Saturday, was trapped on Thursday, providing reprieve to people of the region.

Chief Conservator of Forests Malathi Priya said *prima facie* it appeared to be the same leopard that had killed the boy, Jayanth, a few days ago. She said the Forest Department had installed camera traps around the spot where the boy's body was found, and the leopard was camera trapped at the spot on Wednesday.

"The same leopard has now been trapped in a cage and captured as evident in the rosette pattern which matched and has been verified," said Ms. Priya.

It is five years old and the authorities believe it could be the same leopard which not only killed the boy but also Siddamma, a few days earlier. The distance between Horalahalli, where Jayanth was killed, and Kannayakanhalli, where Siddamma died last Friday, is about 1.5 km. But in case of Kannayakanahalli, the Forest department does not have any camera trap images and the deduction is based on distance.

Samples sent for tests

Meanwhile, Mahesh Kumar, DCF, said scat samples were being sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, to ascertain scientifically whether the animal had preyed on humans.

Not withstanding the capture of the leopard, the nearly 130-strong force deployed at T. Narsipur will continue their monitoring as the authorities are getting frequent calls about leopard sightings from the villages.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said a directive would be issued to constitute a leopard task force on the lines of the Elephant Task Force. Authorities were awaiting orders for its formalisation.

Tense situation

The department staff were surrounded by villagers who wanted the leopard to be killed on the spot. This led to tension and the authorities struggled for nearly five hours to convince the locals not to take law in their own hands. After a long argument, the villagers relented and the animal was shifted to Bannerghatta National Park in Bengaluru.

Post pandemic, parents seek holistic education for children

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

With just around two months left for the current academic year to draw to a close, the school admission process for the upcoming year is on in full swing in Bengaluru. While an average increase of 10% to 15% has been observed in admissions and applications, the focus of parents has now shifted to ensuring that their children receive holistic education.

After spending the better part of two years at home with children, parents have added more things to their checklists before seeking admissions. "Parents are seeking details regarding sports education and options of remedial classes for students who are falling behind due to impact of online learning earlier," said Niru Agarwal, Managing Trustee, Greenwood High International School.

Unusual requests

Other schools have received enquiries that were not typical of the previous academic years. A private school principal, who requested anonymity, said, "Parents have asked me if we would be able to provide more attention to their children as they had got used to it at home. We never received such enquiries before."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

With a 'tobacco-free' tag, Naguvanahalli is all smiles

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Situated around 14 km from Mysuru, Naguvanahalli is like any other village in the Cauvery belt, nestled amid agricultural fields. Only, none of the 14 shops in this village of 2,250 people sells cigarettes, beedis or any other tobacco products. They sport posters and pictorial warnings against smoking and tobacco consumption.

Other villages

Naguvanahalli, in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district, is among a handful of villages across Karnataka --- about 25 in all --- that have been declared "tobacco-free" in the wake of the State Anti-Tobacco Cell calling upon the District Tobacco Control Cells to work towards declaring at least one village in each taluk tobacco-free. Panchayat Development Officer T. Mahalakshmi feels that the village had managed to achieve a fair degree of voluntary compliance, thanks to the efforts of the residents and its elected representatives.

Among other examples, a cluster of 21 villages in Suggenahalli Gram Panchayat in Ramanagaram district too had been declared tobacco-free.

This cluster has a combined population of 8,600 and 67 shops that are tobacco-free. There are three villages in Mandya district, including Chikkarasanakere and Chagashettihalli, besides Kodi Bengre in Udupi district, that also sport the tobacco-free tag.

"We are not saying that there are no smokers in Suggenahalli. We are only saying there is no sale of tobacco products in this village and people are committed to quit," clarified Chandrashekar, a social worker with Ramanagaram District Tobacco Control Cell.

Posters bearing a warning about levy of penalty for violating anti-smoking regulations and about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption are found outside most shops in Naguvanahalli. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The District Tobacco Control Cells are only facilitators, while it is the gram panchayats that enjoy the power to ban the sale of tobacco products by withdrawing the licences to vendors, said a source in the State Anti-Tobacco Control Cell.

The initiative in Naguvanahalli began about a year before the village was declared tobacco-free last year. After a survey by the Health Department revealed that 10.7% of the 2,250 people in the village were using tobacco, the District Tobacco Control Cell officials, led by its consultant S.N. Thimmaraju, along with Asha workers launched a "Gulabi Andolana" by approaching shops and smokers with roses to convince them about the health hazards of smoking.

Finally, when a decision was taken by the gram panchayat to declare the village tobacco-free, shopkeepers were given 15 days' time to exhaust their stock of all tobacco products, said Kempe Gowda, a health inspector working in Naguvanahalli. The Health Department not only organises street plays and 'rangoli' competitions against consumption of tobacco, but also distributes nicotine lozenges to smokers for free.

Schools roped in

Students of the government primary school in Naguvanahalli too have been roped in to keep their village tobacco-free. "Smokers often sent their children to fetch cigarettes or beedis from shops. So, we are educating children about the threat to healthy living from tobacco consumption by holding drawing competitions and plays so that they can influence their elders," said Ms. Sowbhagya, who teaches in the Government school in Naguvanahalli.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Minimum temperature in Delhi four notches above season's average

12.8 In degree Celsius, the minimum temperature recorded in New Delhi on Thursday, four notches above the season's average. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 19° Celsius, an Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin said. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the AQI at 9 a.m. stood at 278. PTI

Punjab government airlifts vaccine doses for lumpy skin disease

25 In lakh, the number of goat pox vaccine doses airlifted by the government for the prevention of lumpy skin disease in cattle, Punjab Animal Husbandry Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar informed. Learning from last year's situation when the State faced loss of livestock due to the disease, the government plans to ensure that it does not affect agri-subsidiary occupations. PTI

Surge in production of opium in Myanmar amid violence

33 In percentage, the surge in the production of opium in Myanmar to 40,100 hectares since the military's seizure of power, as eradication efforts have dropped off and the faltering economy has led more people towards the drug trade, according to a United Nations report. The overall value of the Myanmar opiate economy ranges between $660 million and $2 billion. AP

Increase in deaths from cardiovascular diseases in the U.S.

6.2 The percentage increase in the number of people dying from cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in the U.S. during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2023 Update. The rise in the number of CVD deaths in 2020, from 8.74 lakh deaths in 2019 to 9.28 lakh in 2020, shows the largest single-year increase since 2015. PTI

Funds for war-torn Yemen humanitarian needs in 2023

4.3 In $ billion, the amount needed to fund its humanitarian activities in war-torn Yemen in 2023, the United Nations informed. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said funds are required to help 17.3 million people. It plans to deliver "urgent life saving" assistance to 14 million people. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Japan to flush Fukushima wastewater

Why is the Japanese government flushing 1.25 million tonnes of wastewater into the Pacific Ocean? How will this discharge affect the ocean? Has the TEPCO treated the water? What impact will this decision have globally?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

Japan is expected to start flushing 1.25 million tonnes of wastewater from the embattled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean this year, as part of a $76-billion project to decommission the facility. The project received the Japanese cabinet's approval in 2021 and could take three decades to complete. The idea, which experts and officials in Japan had floated in 2016, has been controversial for its suspected impact on the water, marine life, fishers' livelihoods and other countries in the area. It has also received flak within Japan for sidelining other options and stoked concerns about the government's sincerity.

Why is the water a problem?

In March 2011, after an earthquake of 9 magnitude, a tsunami flooded the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma and damaged its diesel generators. The loss of power suspended coolant supply to reactors at the facility; the tsunami also disabled backup systems.

Soon, radioactive materials leaked from reactor pressure vessels, exploded in the facility's upper levels, and exposed themselves to the ambient air, water, soil, and local population. Winds also carried radioactive material thrown up into the air into the Pacific. Since then, the power plant and its surrounding land have been uninhabitable.

The water that the Japanese government wants to flush from the plant was used to cool the reactors, rainwater and groundwater. It contains radioactive isotopes from the damaged reactors and is thus itself radioactive.

Japan has said that it will release this water into the Pacific Ocean over the next 30 years.

Can the water be treated?

The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), which operates the Fukushima facility, has said that it has treated the water to remove most radioactive isotopes. Former Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said in 2021 that the water will be "far above safety standards". His government required the water to have 1/40th as much tritium as the permitted limit.

Officials have defended the plan saying the TEPCO is running out of room for the water-tanks and that nuclear plants around the world regularly release water containing trace amounts of radionuclides into large water bodies.

"There is no known threshold below which radiation can be considered safe," M.V. Ramana, the Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, told *The Hindu*.

"[A]ny discharge of radioactive materials will increase the risk of cancer and other known health impacts to those who are exposed," Dr. Ramana added.

What if the water is released in a trickle? "Smaller discharges will obviously help with the extent of the risk – if you measure, say, expected numbers of cancers that might result – but it wouldn't necessarily affect the impact on the reputations of fisherfolk in the region," Dr. Ramana said.

Experts expect the affected water to poison the fish; "anyone who knows this is happening will, or should, avoid eating fish caught in the vicinity of the discharge point".

South Korea banned seafood imported from around Fukushima, to Japan's displeasure, from 2013.

Another problem is that the TEPCO has not removed tritium from the water because this is very difficult to do so. Tritium is "easily absorbed by the bodies of living creatures" and "rapidly distributed... via blood," Dr. Ramana said.

In 2018, *Kyodo News* reported that there were other radionuclides in the water that the TEPCO's treatment procedure could not entirely remove. These include isotopes of ruthenium and plutonium, which could persist for longer in the bodies of marine creatures and on the seafloor.

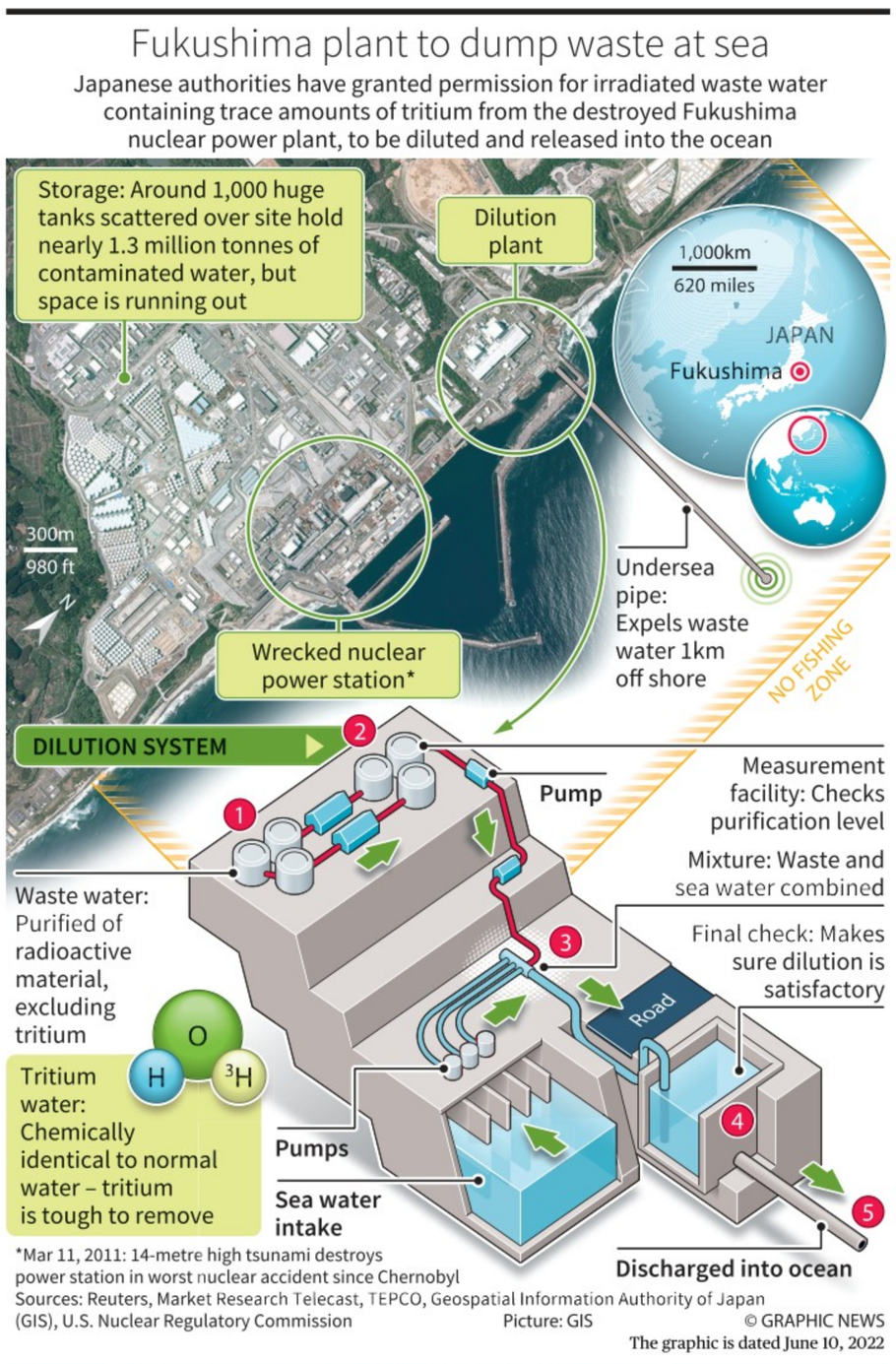
What are Japan's other options?

Some have asked why the Japanese government can't store the water for longer and then discharge it. This is because tritium's half-life – the time it takes for its quantity to be halved through radioactive decay – is 12-13 years. The quantity of any other radioactive isotopes present in the water will also decrease in this time (each isotope has its own half-life). So, at the time of discharge, the water could be less radioactive.

The Japanese government has also declared land around the Fukushima facility to be uninhabitable. The thousand or so tanks to hold the water, each with a capacity of 1,000 metre cube, can be situated here.

But in 2020, authorities determined that flushing the water would be the way forward, over storage and vapourisation. Many experts agreed.

After visiting Fukushima in February 2020, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials also said the discharge would be "technically feasible and would allow the timeline objective to be achieved".


Fukushima plant to dump waste at sea
Japanese authorities have granted permission for irradiated waste water containing trace amounts of tritium from the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant, to be diluted and released into the ocean
Storage: Around 1,000 huge tanks scattered over site hold nearly 1.3 million tonnes of contaminated water, but space is running out
Dilution plant
1,000km
620 miles
JAPAN
Fukushima
300m
980 ft
Undersea pipe: Expels waste water 1km off shore
NO FISHING ZONE
Wrecked nuclear power station*
DILUTION SYSTEM
Pump
Measurement facility: Checks purification level
Mixture: Waste and sea water combined
Final check: Makes sure dilution is satisfactory
Waste water: Purified of radioactive material, excluding tritium
Tritium water: Chemically identical to normal water – tritium is tough to remove
Road
Pumps
Sea water intake
Discharged into ocean
*Mar 11, 2011: 14-metre high tsunami destroys power station in worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl
Sources: Reuters, Market Research Telecast, TEPCO, Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GIS), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Picture: GIS
© GRAPHIC NEWS
The graphic is dated June 10, 2022

An aerial view of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma.

The Fukushima Daiichi accident in March 2011 triggered an avalanche of public opposition to nuclear power worldwide, especially in Europe, diminishing its contribution to the clean-energy power generation mix

Will the Pacific Ocean be affected?

There are concerns about the water body as well as the region. China, South Korea and Taiwan have expressed concerns over Japan's plan. A representative of the Pacific Islands Forum, the bloc of Oceania countries including Australia, has called it "simply inconceivable" based on their experience with "nuclear contamination".

Researchers have also called for more studies to understand the precise composition of each tank before it is flushed and for more details about the TEPCO's water-treatment process.

The National Institute of Marine Laboratories, a non-profit group of more than a hundred research centres across the United States, published a position paper in December 2022 excoriating the plan: "The supporting data provided by the TEPCO and the Japanese Government are insufficient and, in some cases, incorrect, with flaws in sampling protocols, statistical design, sample analyses, and assumptions".

On the flip side, the Joe Biden government in the U.S. voiced support for Japan's plan to discharge the water.

How will the rest of the world be affected?

All nuclear accidents have global repercussions.

The Fukushima Daiichi accident triggered an avalanche of public opposition to nuclear power worldwide, especially in Europe, diminishing its contribution to the clean-energy power generation mix.

In Japan itself, the accident reduced nuclear power's contribution to electricity generation from 30% before 2011 to 5% in 2022. But the incumbent Fumio Kishida government has articulated plans to upgrade and restart older reactors and build new ones in response to the increasing cost of fossil fuels.

However, both India and China doubled down on their domestic commitments. The then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called nuclear energy an "essential option" for India's climate action and energy security. His successor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has clarified that India plans to expand its nuclear power programme with Russia's help.

Then again, the accident also revived concerns about some existing nuclear power plants – especially the Department of Atomic Energy's Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) facility in Tamil Nadu.

In October 2012, police arrested nearly 2,000 protestors after they attempted to march to the Secretariat in Chennai against the KKNPP, in response to the Fukushima accident and what they said were parallels between the two sites.

Ultimately, Japan is also concerned about its reputation. An official committee including scientists, consumers' representatives and Ministry officials wrote in a 2020 report: "It is important to dispose of the... treated water as part of the decommissioning work... taking into account the reputational impact when the disposal method for the... treated water is examined."

THE GIST

Japan is expected to start flushing 1.25 million tonnes of wastewater from the embattled Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean this year, as part of a $76-billion project to decommission the facility. The project received the Japanese cabinet's approval in 2021 and could take three decades to complete.

The water that the Japanese government wants to flush from the plant was used to cool the reactors, rainwater and groundwater. It contains radioactive isotopes from the damaged reactors and is thus itself radioactive. It will release this water into the Pacific Ocean over the next 30 years.

China, South Korea and Taiwan have expressed concerns over Japan's plan. A representative of the Pacific Islands Forum, the bloc of Oceania countries including Australia, has called it "simply inconceivable" based on their experience with "nuclear contamination".

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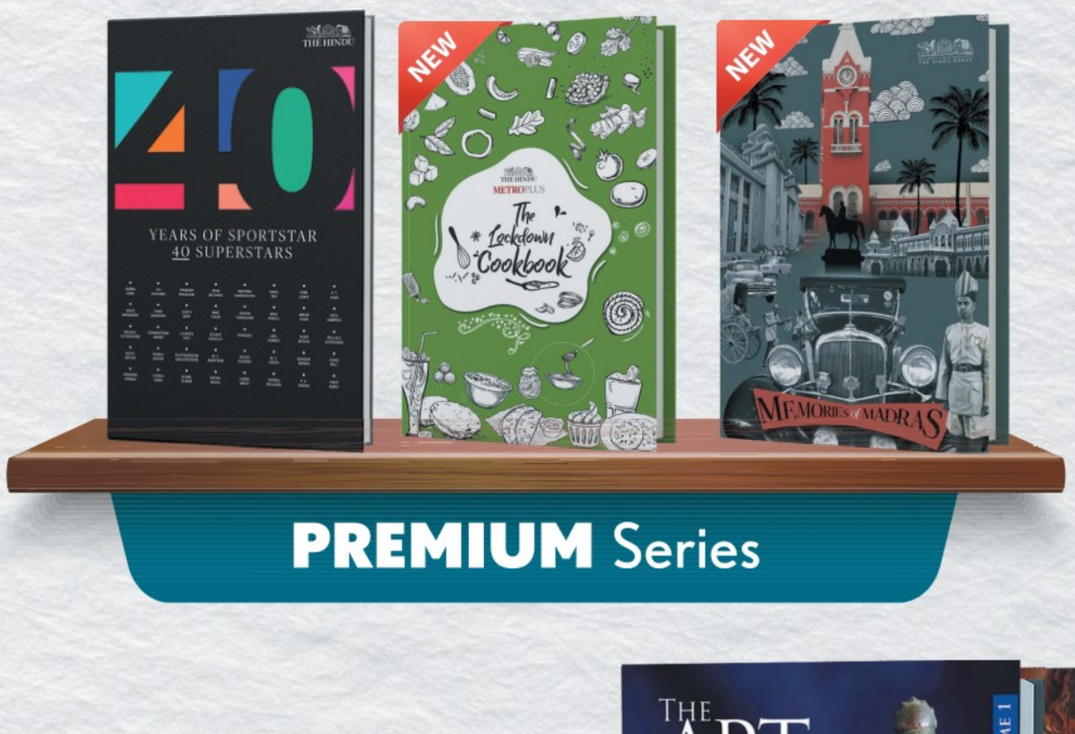

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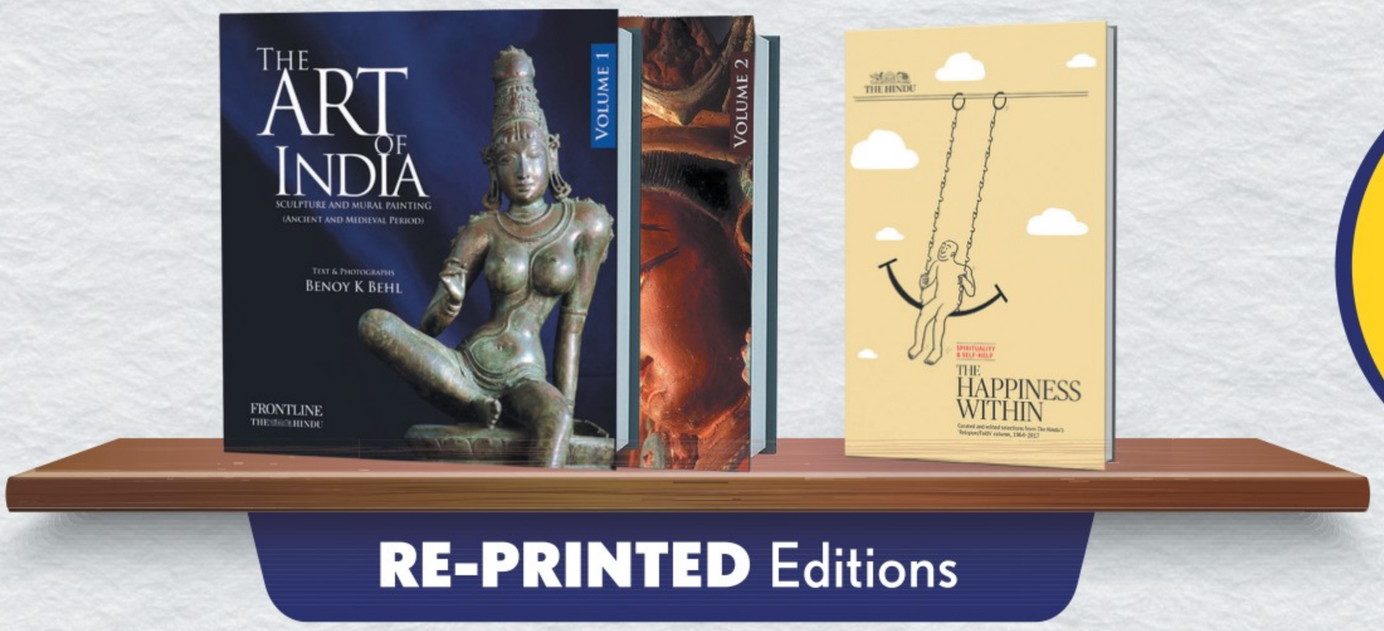

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From Page One

Post-pandemic, parents seek holistic education

Binuta P., a parent from Subramanyapura, said, "There have been many changes in the professional sector in the last few years. Now, good marks alone is not enough. Children should take part in co-curricular activities with the same interest, and hence, we are looking for schools that can provide good trainers and infrastructure for that."

Back to old schools

As many parents had moved back to their hometowns in the previous years taking advantage of the work from home option, their children were admitted to schools there. Now, such parents are seeking admission back at the children's original schools here.

Schools say that classes 1 and 3 were seeing the highest number of admissions. Allan Anderson, Director, Chaman Bhartiya School, said, "We had begun the admission process earlier last year. We noticed that parents who came back from abroad are also getting their children admitted in our schools. We have also seen that people are more conscious of the fee structure now," said.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 27, Friday), the following explainer is available:

- Japan's decision to flush Fukushima wastewater into the ocean **bit.ly/Japansdecision**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Gehlot lauds State govt. achievements in Republic Day speech

Governor says 14 Amrit Mahotsav programmes — introduced on the occasion of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* — have been implemented successfully at various stages in Karnataka

Participants during the Republic day celebrations at Manekshaw Parade Grounds on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Outlining the achievements of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Karnataka in 2022 and terming Karnataka one of the progressive States in the country, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday said 14 Amrit Mahotsav programmes – introduced on the occasion of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* – have been implemented successfully at various stages in the State. "Under MNREGS, 52.71 lakh people from 29.03 lakh families have been provided for during 2022 by creating 13.47 crore man days at a cost of ₹6,478.76 crore and ₹4,110 crore of wages were paid directly to labourers," the Governor said during his speech at the 74th Republic Day celebrations here after receiving the guard of honour.

Stating that ₹15,066 crore has been lent to 20.19 lakh farmers in 2022-2023, he said ₹483.62 crore has been disbursed to farmers' children under the Raita Vidya Nidhi scheme that has now been extended to other categories.

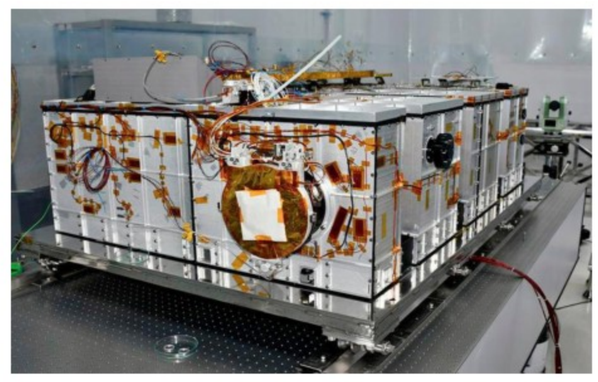
Under the new Yeshasvini health scheme, 32.32 lakh members have been registered till January 17, 2023.

In the health sector, he pointed out that maternal mortality has reduced from 83 to 69, Namma Clinics, women wellness clinics, and polyclinics are in the process of being launched.

Meanwhile, the Bahutva Karnataka, a coalition of several progressive organisations, organised public readings of the Preamble of the Constitution in various public spaces including Jayanagar, C.M.H. Road, and Church Street on the day.

On the day, the Souharda Bharatha, an NGO, organised Samyuktha Sambhrama event on the Chitrakala Parishat premises, with former Supreme Court judge Gopala Gowda inaugurating it.

'India's first mission to study the Sun will be launched by June-July'



Visible Line Emission Coronagraph, the primary payload on board Aditya-L1, was handed over to ISRO by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the Aditya-L1 mission by June or July this year. Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona.

ISRO chairman S. Somanath, speaking at the handover ceremony of the Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC) payload on Thursday, said that the Aditya-L1 mission will be launched by June or July as the launch window for the mission would close by August.

The Aditya-L1 mission will be launched by ISRO to the L1 orbit (which is the first Lagrangian point of the Sun-Earth system). L1 orbit allows Aditya-L1 to look at the Sun continuously.

In total, Aditya-L1 has seven payloads, of which the primary payload is the VELC, designed and fabricated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru.

The other six payloads are being developed by the ISRO and other scientific institutions.

"Understanding the effect of the Sun on the Earth and its surroundings has become very important now and Aditya-L1 aims to shed light on this topic. It has taken 15 years for VELC from concept to completion, and this period was needed for a complex system like this. The VELC has been the finest collaboration between the IIA and the ISRO," said Mr. Somanath.

Following the handover of the VELC payload, the ISRO will now conduct further testing of VELC and its eventual integration with the Aditya-L1 spacecraft.

"This is the main instrument (VELC payload) on board the Aditya-L1 satellite. There are also other instruments which are developed by the ISRO and other institutions. Currently, we are getting ready with the satellite. The payload will be taken to the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, where we will integrate it with the Aditya-L1 satellite which will undergo a lot of testing, evaluation, and finally, it will be launched using the PSLV," Mr. Somanath added.

Bikers steal part of gold chain from elderly woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused stole part of gold chain, worth ₹35,000, from elderly woman after offering her a lift

Two unidentified bikers stole part of a gold chain, worth ₹35,000, from an elderly woman after offering her a lift in Varthur recently. The victim, Lakshmi Rao, 60, a resident of Prestige apartment in Gunjur, was returning home around 8.30 p.m.

According to the police, she was resting on the road side, unable to to walk due to joint pain, when the duo on a bike approached her, and offered a lift.

Ms. Lakshmi agreed and the the trio managed to reach the destination. While she was getting down, the pillion rider tried to snatch her gold chain. Sensing trouble, Ms. Lakshmi screamed and held the chain tightly. After struggling for a few seconds, the accused managed to flee with a part of the chain.

The Varthur police have taken up a case of robbery and efforts are on to track down the accused.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the Ashoknagar police arrested Syed Kashif, 22, and his associate, Farid Ahmed, 20, from Chamarajapet for allegedly stealing a gold chain from an elderly woman on January 5.

The victim, Hemavathy Srinivas, 70, was on her way to the temple when the accused confronted her on a scooter and sped away after snatching her 48.5g gold chain.

Based on a complaint, the police, with the help of CCTV camera footage, identified the accused and arrested them. The police also arrested Sultan Pasha, 27 for purchasing the stolen chain.

Domicile reservation for Karnataka candidates: Higher Education Minister writes second letter to NLSIU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan has written another letter to the National Law School India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, on Thursday, urging them to implement the 25% domicile quota reservation for Karnataka candidates.

The Minister wrote the first letter a few weeks ago, while Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy also wrote to NLSIU on the same issue.

In the letter to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Narayan has claimed that it would violate the law of natural justice if the students selected under the all-India quota are considered under domicile reservation. It is mandatory to provide 25% reservation to students of Karnataka origin, exempting those selected under the all-India quota.

In similar institutions located at Visakhapatnam, Raipur, Kolkata, and other places, domicile reservation of 25% is being followed, exempting the students selected under the all-India quota. The same should be observed here also as per the amendments introduced in 2020, he said.

The Minister also alleged that in place of 45 students, who deserved reservation under the domicile quota during 2022-23, only 32 were given admissions.

"Of the 180 seats available, 45 should have been admitted under the domicile quota, but 13 students who got seats under the all-India quota were also included in the domicile," he added.

"The university should also not forget that the State government has also sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹22 crore to the university this year. For 2023-24, there are 240 seats available and out of this, 60 students should be considered under the domicile reservation. In case this has not been ensured in the provisional selection list, it should be rectified immediately. If it cannot be corrected this way, the university should prepare a revised selection list considering the supernumerary criteria," he stated in a release.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 27		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:18
RISE	11:06	SET 23:43
SATURDAY, JAN. 28		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:19
RISE	11:46	SET 00:00
SUNDAY, JAN. 29		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:19
RISE	12:26	SET 00:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	30	13
Bengaluru	30	15

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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Cancellation of film contract merely on Minister's instruction is arbitrary: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government had arbitrarily cancelled a contract given to a film production company to produce a 3D film, which was to be displayed in the Global Investors' Meet held in November, 2022, merely acting on the instruction of the Industries and Commerce Minister, said the High Court of Karnataka.

"Article 14 (equality before the law) is that golden thread that is woven through the entire fabric of the Constitution and every bead of State action should pass through that golden thread. Actions of the State cannot be arbitrary," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed by Mumbai-based BBP Studio Virtual Bharat Pvt. Ltd.

Marketing Communication and Advertising Ltd. (MCAL)., a State government undertaking, had given a contract to the petitioner to produce the five-minute film to showcase the uniqueness of Karnataka. The contract was signed during August-September, 2022, to produce the film at a cost of around ₹4 crore, and MCAL had paid an advance of ₹1.5 crore to the petitioner.

However, MCAL unilaterally cancelled the contract on October 25. The petitioner had questioned this action, stating that the film was already completed by investing huge money, and the contract was cancelled without assigning any reason.

After the court on October 31 stayed the cancellation, the government said that a committee would view the film and decide its worthiness for the event. The committee, which watched the film on November 3, said the film was "sub-standard and not suitable to exhibit before the foreign delegates".

However, the court from the records found that Minister Murugesh Nirani had issued an instruction on October 21 to cancel the contract stating that spending such a huge amount for the film was not appropriate.

"It is the communication of the Minister that led to the cancellation of the contract and, therefore, the constitution of the committee of interested persons (government officials), would inspire no confidence of this court for their act of rejection of the film," the court said.

The court also observed: "There was no expert or an independent entity to assess the film. Who assessed the film are the persons who needed to toe the line of the Minister." The court directed the government to pay the balance amount to the petitioner.

Stage set for DAKSH career guidance fest on Jan. 27, 28

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With an aim of helping students, stepping out of pre-university, to make informed choices about their higher education and career tracks, Christ (Deemed to be University) is back with its annual education and career guidance fest DAKSH, at Christ University Central Campus, Hosur Road, Bengaluru, on January 27 and 28. Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., DAKSH will showcase prospective students the available range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral opportunities, and their career prospects, with additional insights from industry experts and career counsellors. Christ University's Bangalore Central Campus on Hosur Road will host the inaugural educational fair DAKSH from 10 a.m. on Friday.

The guest speaker lineup includes Union Minister Piyush Goyal, principal architect of KlimArt, Dr. Sujit Kumar, CEO of Global Insights Policy Arpit Chaturvedi, founding director of Science Gallery Dr. Jahnavi Phalkey and many more.

The annual education and career fair is a collaborative and comprehensive effort of the Student Council and the university for the benefit of the general student community. The council is a body that aims to enhance the student experience on campus and spread educational literacy to different members of our society through DAKSH. "Accord", an Android app developed by the Student Council helps in easing the process of registrations during DAKSH. Further, the ones who wish to visit online could do so on January 28. Visitors can engage with the student community and faculty from the respective streams and understand the challenges and possibilities each domain presents.

IN THE COURT OF THE 82ND ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
Commercial O.S. No. 1653/2022

Between M/s R.I. Enterprises, Near Mariamma Temple, Nagawara Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 045 represented by its Proprietrix Smt. Farhana Hafizulla represented by GPA Holder Shri Junaid Pasha, S/o Sikander Pasha, Near Mariamma Temple, Nagawara Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 045

And M/s. FEB Tech Projects Private Limited represented by its Managing Partner Shri Harish Srinivas, No. 57, 1st Floor, 12th Cross, MTS Layout, Outer Ring Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru - 560 060.

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

WHEREAS, the plaintiff has filed the above suit for relief directing you to pay a sum of Rs. 10,41,951/- (Rupees Ten Lakh forty one thousand nine fifty one) with future interest at18% from the date of the suit till his realization and other reliefs.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or with a pleader duty instructed on this 21-2-2023 day. Take notice that in case of any default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on this day of 20-01-2023.

By the Order of the Court
Sd/-
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Shanmukhappa

M/s KESVY and Co.,Advocates, No.7/3, 1st Floor, 'E' Block, Unity Buildings, J.C. Road, Bengaluru-02

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Members of the Irula community play music using traditional instruments at Karikiyoor.

The path to righting historical wrongs in Tamil Nadu

The State government needs to set aside its electoral interest to create a self-governed path for tribal development; a clear plan for tribal development should be reflected in the yearly Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

C. Lakshmanan

Two snake catching experts from the Irula community – Vadivel Gopal and Masi Sadaiyan – were chosen to be honoured with the Padma Shri awards on Wednesday. C. Lakshmanan highlights the plight of the Scheduled Tribe communities in Tamil Nadu and the need for some remedies in the article dated November 18, 2021.

The Tamil movie *Jai Bhim* portrayed the discrimination experienced by the Irula community, the second largest of the 36 tribal communities in Tamil Nadu. They are traditional healers, snake and rat catchers, but now primarily migrate to different places to work in brick kilns, rice mills, etc. Like many Adivasi groups in India, the Irulas also continue to suffer the stigma of criminality due to the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952, which replaced the colonial Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. This law is a "crude colonial construct", which should be repealed at the earliest. The movie exposed the police atrocities, the insensitivity of Government officials and the struggles faced by the community.

The film generated a lot of discussion on the violence and negligence that the Irulas face, but not on the structural issues with governance and the negation of tribal communities' concerns. For instance, a study by Jocelyn I. Lee and Steven A. Wolf in 2018 on the rate of the formal distribution of rights claims under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, commonly known as the Forest Rights Act, found that no title rights were issued in Tamil Nadu because of a ban on the issuance of titles by the High Court till early 2016. The ban was stayed only after the intervention of the Supreme Court.

The "development-induced displacement" trajectory adopted by the country has often been at the expense of the Scheduled Tribes (STs), either by way of exclusion or forced "inclusion" in a "mainstream" that is completely alien to their "world view" through what the Xaxa Committee in 2014 had called the "ashramisation" of the tribal. Displacement due to the encroachment and appropriation of land inhabited by STs, which are generally rich in forest and mineral resources, has been further intensified in the post-liberalisation period due to corporate interests.

Hence, the makers of the Constitution, even while underlining the importance of sharing the values of modernity with the STs, who have a great deal of heterogeneity among themselves, had been careful enough to provide a certain degree of autonomy to them to have a say in their development pursuit. Nation states have realised that certain elements in the tribal "world view", with respect to ecology, language, democracy, equality, property rights, etc., hold important lessons for human progress and sustainable development. Accordingly, the Fifth and Sixth Schedules, which are governed by Articles 244 (1) and (2) of the Constitution, provides certain rights to tribes in the northeast and across India.

Creation of Scheduled Areas

The Fifth Schedule had been also termed by the Mungekar Committee in 2009 for tribal development as a "Constitution within Constitution". It allows for the creation of Scheduled Areas by the President of India. Though there are no criteria mentioned regarding the creation of Scheduled Areas, it has become the norm to use four factors, following the Dhebar Commission (1960-61), for the creation of these areas: preponderance of the tribes in the population; compact and reasonable size; underdeveloped nature of the area; and marked disparity in the economic standards of the people.

According to the 2011 Census, with a 1.1% ST population in Tamil Nadu, Community Development (CD) blocks like Kalrayan hills in Viluppuram district, Kolli Hills in Namakkal district, Yercaud in Salem district and Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai district have a ST population of 80%, 96%, 67% and 91%, respectively.

The literacy rate in the four CD blocks range between 44% and 62%, whereas the overall literacy rate in Tamil Nadu as per the Census was around 80%. The proportion of non-agricultural main workers, an important marker of urbanisation, is less than 10% in three out of the four CD blocks, whereas it is 60% in Tamil Nadu overall.

The comparative economic backwardness of the STs living in Tamil Nadu is evident from the fact that as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) in 2015-16, only 55%, 65% and 37% of ST households compared to 75%, 78% and 61% of all the households in Tamil Nadu had access to clean fuel, concrete houses and sanitation facilities, respectively. The primary survey conducted by the Madras Institute of Development Studies in 2014-15 also revealed that the average size of agricultural land among all landowning sample tribal households in Tamil Nadu was a mere 1.42 acres with a landlessness of 52%. The landlessness among the Irula and Paniyan communities was 89% and 68%, respectively.

These four blocks should be declared Scheduled Areas. Till now, areas with more than 50% ST population had been declared Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas in Tamil Nadu. With the enforcement of the Fifth Schedule, not only are Panchayati Raj Institutions reserved for STs under the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, but three kinds of autonomy are made available to the STs through the gram sabhas: developmental autonomy pertaining to land alienation, land acquisition, tribal sub-plan, social sector institutions, etc.; autonomy over the resolution of disputes as per tribal laws and customs; and autonomy over the ownership and management of natural resources.

Need to be reconfigured

Additionally, compact tribal areas of reasonable size, constituting villages with no less than 50% tribal population, can be identified in CD blocks with a significant tribal population to demarcate new administrative areas, which can then be brought under the purview of the Fifth Schedule by declaring them Scheduled Areas. This would be only fulfilling a commitment made in 1976 by the Government of India and reiterated by the Mungekar Committee.

Apart from the Scheduled Areas, villages where STs are in minority but still in sizeable numbers should be brought under already existing ITDP areas, which are being governed in Tamil Nadu with the advice of the Tribes Advisory Council (TAC). The TAC is an advisory body and thee-fourth of its members must be from ST communities.

The Tamil Nadu Government needs to show political will and set aside its electoral interest to create a self-governed path for tribal development. Of course, these measures alone are not the panacea to all tribal problems. It should be complemented with clear policies and a plan for tribal development reflected in the yearly Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). The formulation of this plan must include representatives of different tribes in Tamil Nadu. In this context, the promulgation of the Tamil Nadu State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act, 2021, is a step in the right direction.

C. Lakshmanan is Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

January 30 will mark the 75th anniversary of the Mahatma's assassination. Here's a quiz on the Father of the Nation

S. Venkataraghavan

QUESTION 1
How old was Mahatma Gandhi when he got married to Kasturbai?

QUESTION 2
Who did Mahatma Gandhi consider as his mentor, who persuaded Gandhi to came back to India and invest time in understanding the country, and work for the Indian independence struggle movement?

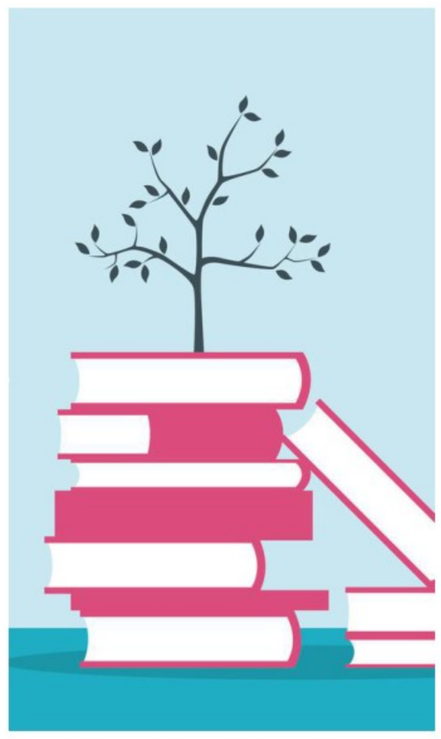
QUESTION 3
In which city in India was the Gandhi Memorial Museum established in 1959, where one of the exhibits include blood-stained garment that was worn by Mahatma Gandhi when he was assassinated by Nathuram Godse?

QUESTION 4
Which famous Big Tech leader decided to wear round glasses as a tribute to his Indian hero? His campaign "Think Different" also featured a photograph of M.K. Gandhi.

QUESTION 5
What is the name of the town 70 kilometres away from Madurai, which is a rural community set up as an example on reviving village industries and provide skilled livelihoods to people from backward communities?

Visual question:
Identify this building and its connection with M.K. Gandhi

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Arthur Phillip hoisted the British flag near which city? **Ans: Sydney**
2. Name the musical that became the longest-running show in Broadway history. **Ans: 'Phantom of the Opera'**
3. Name the American actor who won an Oscar for *The Color of Money*. **Ans: Paul Newman**
4. On January 26, 1926, which Scottish inventor gave the first public demonstration of a true television system? **Ans: John Logie Baird**
5. Name the State that became the 26th State to join the U.S. **Ans: Michigan**
6. At which session in 1930 did the Indian National Congress pass the historic 'Purna Swaraj' resolution? **Ans: Lahore**
7. What was inaugurated on January 26, 1972? **Ans: Amar Jawan Jyoti**
Visual: Name the basketball legend who died in a helicopter crash on January 26, 2020. **Ans: Kobe Bryant**
Early Birds: S. Sampath Kumar | Faizan R. Lone | Jatinder Bali | Abhigya Singh



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Mr. G.S. Jain of Andersonpet, KGF, wants to know the difference between 'grab' and 'grasp.'

" 'To grasp' means 'to take hold of something firmly.'

He tried to grasp the ball but it slipped and fell to the ground.

He grasped my hand and shook it warmly.

'Grasp' also means 'to understand, comprehend.'

I was not able to grasp all that he said at the meeting.

It is also used as a noun.

His grasp is poor.

It is beyond my grasp.

'Grab' also means 'to grasp.' But it implies haste, roughness and greed.

He grabbed my bag and ran away.

They grabbed the land.

She grabs every opportunity to go abroad.

He is a great grabber.

It is also used to mean 'to impress, to arrest the attention of.'

How does this grab you?

'Life is whatever grabs you.'

'Up for grabs' is American slang meaning 'easily obtainable.'

The job is up for grabs.

'Grasping' when used as an adjective means 'very greedy.'

He is a grasping businessman.

He cast a grasping eye on his uncle's property.

'Grasping' and 'grab' are always used in a derogatory sense. The 'a' in 'grab' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'man,' but the 'a' in 'grasp' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'pass' and 'grass.' "

Prof. M.R. Appa Row of Nuzvid wants to know whether it is correct to use 'too' in the sense of 'very' in the following sentence: 'The weather is too bad.'

"It is correct. 'Too' is used in the sense of 'very' in modern colloquial English.

He is too kind.

She is too good.

'Too' in the sense of 'very' should be avoided in formal writing and speech.

"Mr. V.K. Rangarajan of Madras wants to know the meaning of the word 'homonym."

" 'Homonyms' are words which are similar in sound and spelling but different in meaning. Examples: lie (to recline) and lie (to tell a lie); point (a score) and point (to indicate); and bear (to carry) and bear (the animal)."

"Mr. V. Veerabhadra Rao of Khammam wants to know the pronunciation of 'oust'."

"The 'ou' in 'oust' is pronounced like the 'ou' in 'found,' 'hound,' and 'sound.' It is not 'oost' but 'aust.' 'Oust' means 'to drive or push out.'

They tried to oust the Chairman.

It is not easy to oust him from office.

Word of the day

Compunction:
a feeling of deep regret

Synonyms:
scruple, misgiving, uneasiness

Usage:
He feels no compunction about his crimes

Pronunciation: bit.ly/3Jijb5y

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kəm'pʌŋ(k)ʃn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED

Our Company was originally established as a partnership firm in 1988. Our Company was, thereafter, registered and incorporated in Ahmedabad, Gujarat as 'Adani Exports Limited' on March 2, 1993, as a company limited by shares pursuant to Part IX of the Companies Act, 1956 and pursuant to a certificate of incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies, Gujarat at Ahmedabad (**"RoC"**). A certificate of commencement of business was issued by the RoC on March 4, 1993. Subsequently, the name of our Company was changed to 'Adani Enterprises Limited' pursuant to a resolution of our Board of Directors passed on May 20, 2006 and subsequently a resolution of our Shareholders was passed on July 29, 2006 and to reflect the changes in our business strategies. Consequently, a fresh certificate of incorporation was issued by the RoC on August 10, 2006. For further details in relation to the changes in our name and the registered office of our Company, see *"History and Certain Corporate Matters - Brief history of our Company"* and *"History and Certain Corporate Matters - Changes in the registered office of our Company"* on page 228 of the Red Herring Prospectus dated January 18, 2023 (**"RHP"**).

Registered and Corporate Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382 421, Gujarat, India; **Telephone:** +91 79 2555 5555, **Contact Person:** Jatin Jalundhwala, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; **Email:** investor.ael@adani.com; **Telephone:** +91 79 2555 5377, **Website:** www.adanienterprises.com; **Corporate Identity Number:** L51100GJ1993PLC019067

THE PROMOTERS OF OUR COMPANY ARE GAUTAM S. ADANI AND RAJESH S. ADANI

FURTHER PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] PARTLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1 EACH ("FPO EQUITY SHARES") OF ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED ("COMPANY") FOR CASH AT A PRICE# OF ₹ [●] PER FPO EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER FPO EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 20,000 CRORE* BY WAY OF A FRESH ISSUE (THE "OFFER"). THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] FPO EQUITY SHARES, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 50 CRORE, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES NOT EXCEEDING 5% OF OUR POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●]% AND [●]%, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY.

#RETAIL DISCOUNT OF ₹64 TO THE OFFER PRICE WILL BE OFFERED TO RETAIL INDIVIDUAL BIDDERS.

**ASSUMING FULL SUBSCRIPTION AND ALLOTMENT AND RECEIPT OF ALL CALL MONIES WITH RESPECT TO THE FPO EQUITY SHARES*

The Offer is being made in accordance with Regulation 155 and 129(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations | QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer Employee Reservation Portion: Upto [•] FPO Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 50 crores | A Discount of ₹ 64 per FPO Equity Share is being offered to Retail Individual Bidders bidding in the retail portion

PRICE BAND: ₹ 3,112 TO ₹ 3,276 PER FPO EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1 EACH.
THE FLOOR PRICE IS 3,112.00 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE FPO EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 3,276.00 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE FPO EQUITY SHARES.
BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 4 FPO EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 4 FPO EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

THE ABOVE PRICE BAND IS FOR A FULL FPO EQUITY SHARE HAVING FACE VALUE OF ₹ 1 EACH, OF WHICH 50% OF THE AMOUNT IS PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION AND BALANCE AMOUNT WILL BE PAID IN ONE OR MORE SUBSEQUENT CALL(S) AS DETERMINED BY THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR A DULY AUTHORISED COMMITTEE THEREOF AT ITS SOLE DISCRETION, FROM TIME TO TIME. ACCORDINGLY, AT THE TIME OF THE APPLICATION, INVESTORS ARE REQUIRED TO PAY THE APPLICATION BID AMOUNT (i.e. BID LOT X 50% OF THE PRICE OF THE FULL FPO EQUITY SHARE).

Payment Schedule for FPO Equity Shares		
	At Floor Price (₹)	At Cap Price (₹)
On Application	1,556.00*	1,638.00*
One or more subsequent call(s)	1,556.00	1,638.00
Total (₹)	3,112.00	3,276.00

** Constitutes 50% of the Floor/ Cap Price.*

In accordance with the recommendation of a Committee of Independent Directors of the Company, pursuant to their resolution dated January 18, 2023 the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in 'Basis for the Offer Price' section vis-à-vis the WACA of primary issuances/ secondary transactions disclosed in 'Basis for the Offer Price' section provided in the RHP.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

- **The weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) of all Equity Shares transacted in the last 1 year, 18 months and 3 years preceding the date of the RHP:***

Period	WACA per Equity Share (in ₹)	Cap Price (₹ 3,276) is 'x' times the WACA	Range of acquisition price per Equity Share: lowest price - highest price (in ₹)
Last 1 year	2,884.83	1.14	1,564.31 - 4,125.20
Last 18 months	2,317.45	1.41	1,360.97 - 4,125.20
Last 3 years	1,104.57	2.97	124.76 - 4,125.20

** As certified by M/s. Shah Dhandaria and Co, LLP, Chartered Accountants, by way of their certificate dated January 18, 2023*

** We are not aware of any off-market secondary transactions of Equity Shares*

- **We expect our expenses to increase in the future as we continue to expand our operations and increase our investments in new business verticals, which will place significant demands on our management and our operational and financial resources, and if we fail to manage the growth of our existing businesses and to capitalize on our growth opportunities effectively, our business and results of operations may be adversely affected. In Fiscals 2022, 2021, 2020 and the six months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, our integrated resource management business contributed 69.4%, 59.4%, 70.1%, 78.0% and 69.4% of our total income, and our mining services business contributed 3.9%, 5.0%, 4.2%, 4.3% and 4.4% of our total income, respectively. Additionally, we ramped up our airports operations and it contributed 3.2% of our total income in the six months ended September 30, 2022. Our other businesses are at various stages of development and in line with our strategy we intend to expand, diversify and develop these businesses.**
- **Limited operating history of certain businesses: Some of our businesses, such as defence (started in 2017), airports (started in 2019), roads (started in 2018), data centers (first data center commissioned in October 2022), digital, water management, commercial mining, industrials manufacturing, among others and metals and manufacturing have limited operating histories, and may not serve as an adequate basis to evaluate our future prospects, results of operations and cash flows.**
- **Our integrated resource management business primarily depends on an increasing demand for imported coal in India and our ability to maintain a diverse supplier base.**
- **Certain companies within the Adani group are involved in various legal, regulatory and other proceedings. For instance, the Investigations Department of SEBI had approached our Company and certain companies within the Adani group (Adani Ports And Special Economic Zone Limited, Adani Total Gas Limited and Adani Transmission Limited, Adani Global Limited) for certain information and documents, and these requests have been responded by them to SEBI. In case any proceedings are initiated or adversely determined against them, it could have an adverse impact on our business and reputation.**
- **Our Promoter Group does not include certain immediate relatives of the spouses of our Promoters (which is in line with our historical practice), and relevant confirmations relating to them are based on publicly available information.**
- **The P/E ratio based on the cap price of ₹ 3,276 per FPO Equity Share and the diluted EPS for FY2022 of ₹7.06 per equity share is 464.02 times and may not be indicative of market price on listing or thereafter.**
- **Weighted average cost of acquisition (WACA) based on the last five primary issuances or secondary transactions, not older than three years prior to the date of the RHP, is as below:**

Past Transactions	WACA per Equity Share (in ₹)^	Floor Price (₹ 3,112) is 'x' times the WACA	Cap Price (₹ 3,276) is 'x' times the WACA
WACA of primary issuances	1,915.85	1.62	1.71
WACA of secondary issuances*	3,624.18	0.86	0.90

** We are not aware of any off-market secondary transactions of Equity Shares*

^ The above is basis the details of the last five primary issuances (excluding Equity Shares issued under ESOP/ESOS and issuance of bonus Equity Shares, as applicable) or secondary transactions (secondary transactions where Promoters, members of the Promoter Group, or Shareholder(s) having the right to nominate Director(s) on our Board, are a party to the transaction), not older than three years prior to the date of the RHP irrespective of the size of transactions.

- **The 10 BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 97 public issues in the past three years, out of which 34 issues closed below the Offer Price on listing date :**

Name of BRLMs	Total Issues	Issues closed below IPO Price as on listing date
ICICI Securities Limited	7	1
Axis Capital Limited	8	3
IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited	1	1
IIFL Securities Limited	10	4
JM Financial Limited	4	-
Common Issues of all BRLMs	67	25
Total	97	34

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON : TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023*

** UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5.00 p.m. on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.*

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days following such revision of the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the Book Running Lead Managers and at the terminals of the members of the Syndicate and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made in terms of Regulation 155 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made in accordance with Regulation 129(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and through a book building process wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be allotted on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**", and such portion, the "**QIB Portion**"). Our Company in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("**Anchor Investor Portion**"), out of which at least one-third shall be reserved for allocation to domestic Mutual Funds only, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under- subscription, or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance FPO Equity Shares shall be added to the portion of the QIB Portion less the number of Equity Shares Allotted to the Anchor Investors ("**Net QIB Portion**"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, and the remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders other than Anchor Investors, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance FPO Equity Shares available for allocation will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders, in accordance with Regulation 129(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, out of which (a) one third of such portion shall be reserved for Bidders with Bids exceeding ₹2,00,000 up to ₹10,00,000; and (b) two-third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with Bids exceeding ₹10,00,000, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to applicants in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("**RIBs**") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. All potential Bidders, other than Anchor Investors, are required to mandatorily utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders) in which the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the SCSBs, or by the Sponsor Banks under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable to participate in the Offer. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see *"Offer Procedure"* on page 698 of the RHP. The FPO Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, such Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) outside of the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur; and (ii) to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) in transactions exempt from the registration requirements under the U.S. Securities Act. The FPO Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered, listed or otherwise qualified in any other jurisdiction outside India and may not be offered or sold, and Bids may not be made by persons in any such jurisdiction, except in compliance with the applicable laws of such jurisdiction.

Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated Feb 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of the Company, please see the section "*History and Certain Corporate Matters*" on page 228 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of the Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section entitled "*Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection*" on page 723 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY: Limited by shares

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Company is ₹ 4,90,42,00,000 divided into 4,85,92,00,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 1 each and 45,00,000 preference shares of ₹10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹ 1,14,00,01,121 divided into 1,14,00,01,121 Equity Shares of ₹ 1 each. For details, please see the section entitled "*Capital Structure*" beginning on page 79 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association are Mahasukh S. Adani, Vinod S. Adani, Vasant S. Adani, Gautam S. Aadani, Rajesh S. Adani, Suvarna M. Adani, Pritiben G. Adani, Ranjan Vinodbhai Adani, Pushpa V. Adani and Shilin R. Adani. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section entitled *"Capital Structure"* beginning on page 79 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity shares are listed on BSE and NSE. The FPO Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the FPO Equity Shares pursuant to letters dated January 17, 2023. For the purposes of the Offer, NSE is the Designated Stock Exchange.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 669-670 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE : It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 670 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (DESIGNATED STOCK EXCHANGE) : It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 670 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

GENERAL RISK: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and Bidders should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their investment. Bidders are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, Bidders must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The FPO Equity Share have neither been recommended, nor approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the Bidders is invited to *"Risk Factors"* on page 26 of the RHP.

THE FPO EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON BSE AND NSE

ASBA# | **Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!**

Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI-Now available in ASBA for all individual investors applying in public issues where the Bid Amount is up to ₹ 500,000* applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, DPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Investors and Non-Institutional Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021

**As this is an Offer of partly paid up FPO Equity Shares, the Application Bid Amount payable is up to ₹ 250,000*

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except anchor investors. UPI may be availed by Retail Individual Investors. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in ASBA form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" beginning on page 698 of the Red Herring Prospectus. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India (**"AIBI"**) and BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE", and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges") and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum-application forms can be downloaded from the websites of Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/ OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on FPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited and ICICI Bank has been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For offer related queries, please contact the BRLMs on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: fpo.upi@npci.org.in.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

ICICI Securities Limited
ICICI Venture House, Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India, **Tel:** +91 22 6807 7100
Email: ael.fpo@icicisecurities.com, **Website:** www.icicisecurities.com
Investor Grievance ID: customercare@icicisecurities.com
Contact Person: Shekher Asnani / Harsh Thakkar
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011179

Jefferies India Private Limited
42/43, 2 North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India, **Tel:** +91 22 4356 6000,
Email: adanienterprises.fpo@jefferies.com, **Website:** www.jefferies.com,
Investor Grievance ID: jipl.grievance@jefferies.com
Contact Person: Suhani Bhareja,
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011443

SBI Capital Markets Limited
202, Maker Tower 'E', Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400 005, Maharashtra, India. **Tel:** +91 22 4006 9807
Email: ael.fpo@sbicaps.com, **Website:** www.sbicaps.com
Investor Grievance ID: investor.relations@sbicaps.com
Contact Person: Karan Savardekar / Sambit Rath
SEBI Registration Number: INM000003531

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

Link Intime India Private Limited
C 101, 247 Park, L.B.S Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai - 400 083, Maharashtra, India, **Tel:** +91 81081 14949
E-mail: ael.fpo@linkintime.co.in, **Website:** www.linkintime.co.in
Investor Grievance ID: ael.fpo@linkintime.co.in
Contact Person: Shanti Gopalkrishnan
SEBI Registration Number: INR000004058

Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Jatin Jalundhwala
Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382 421 Gujarat, India
Tel.: +91 79 2555 5377, **Facsimile:** +91 79 2555 5500,
Email: jatin.jalundhwala@adani.in

Bidders can contact the Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems such as non-receipt of Allotment Advice/letter of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Units in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders and non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

Axis Capital Limited
1st Floor, Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India, **Tel:** +91 22 4325 2183,
E-mail: ael.fpo@axiscap.in
Investor Grievance ID: complaints@axiscap.in
Website: www.axiscapital.co.in
Contact Person: Sagar Jatakiya
SEBI Registration Number: INM000012029

BOB Capital Markets Limited
1704, B Wing, 17th Floor, Parinee Crescenzo, Plot No. C - 38/39, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6138 9353, **E-mail:** ael.fpo@bobcaps.in
Investor Grievance ID: investorgrievance@bobcaps.in
Website: www.bobcaps.in
Contact Person: Ninad Jape/ Nivedika Chavan
SEBI Registration Number.: INM000009926

IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited
6th Floor, IDBI Towers, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400 005, Maharashtra, India,
Tel: +91 22 2217 1953
E-mail: ael.fpo@idbicapital.com
Investor Grievance ID: redressal@idbicapital.com
Website: www.idbicapital.com
Contact Person: Subodh Gandhi / Indrajit Bhagat
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010866

JM Financial Limited
7th floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6630 3030/3262
E-mail: Ael.fpo@jmfl.com
Investor Grievance ID: grievance.ibd@jmfl.com
Website: www.jmfl.com
Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010361

IIFL Securities Limited
10th Floor, IIFL Centre, Kamala City, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai- 400013, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 46464728, **E-mail:** ael.fpo@iiflcap.com
Investor Grievance ID: ig.ib@iiflcap.com
Website: www.iiflcap.com
Contact Person: Mukesh Garg / Pawan Jain
SEBI Registration Number: INM000010940

Monarch Networth Capital Limited
4th Floor, B Wing, Laxmi Tower, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051, Maharashtra, India, **Tel:** +91 22 6883 6402
Email: ael.fpo@mnclgroup.com
Investor Grievance ID: mbd@mnclgroup.com
Website: www.mnclgroup.com
Contact Person: Saahil Kinkhabwala / Ashok Devarajan
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011013

Elara Capital (India) Private Limited
21st Floor, Tower 3, One International Center, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road West, Mumbai - 400 013, Maharashtra, India
Tel: 91 22 6164 8599, **E-mail:** ael.fpo@elaracapital.com
Investor Grievance ID: mb.investorgrievances@elaracapital.com
Website: www.elaracapital.com, **Contact Person:** Astha Daga
SEBI Registration Number: INM000011104

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the *"Risk Factors"* beginning on page 26 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP shall be available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the **BRLMs**, i.e.ICICI Securities Limited , Jefferies India Private Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited, Axis Capital Limited, BOB Capital Markets Limited, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited, IIFL Securities Limited, Monarch Networth Capital Limited, and Elara Capital (India) Private Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, www.jefferies.com, www.sbicaps.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.bobcaps.in, www.idbicapital.com, www.jmfl.com, www.iiflcap.com, www.mnclgroup.com and www.elaracapital.com , respectively and on the websites of BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid cum Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of **ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED, Telephone:** +91 79 2555 5555; **BRLMs : ICICI Securities Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6807 7100; **Jefferies India Private Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4356 6000; **SBI Capital Markets Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4006 9807; **Axis Capital Limited, Tel:** +91 22 4325 2183; **BOB Capital Markets Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6138 9353; **IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited, Tel:** +91 22 2217 1953; **JM Financial Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6630 3030/3262; **IIFL Securities Limited, Tel:** +91 22 46464728; **Monarch Networth Capital Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6883 6402; and **Elara Capital (India) Private Limited, Tel:** 91 22 6164 8599; **Syndicate Members: SBICAP Securities Limited, Tel:** +91-22-69316204; **Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6849 7400; **Elara Securities (India) Private Limited, Tel:** + 91 6164 8599; **JM Financial Services Limited, Tel:** +91 22 6136 3400 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members: Almondz Global Securities Ltd., Alankit Assignments Ltd., Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Angel Broking, Bajaj Capital Ltd., Bajaj Financial Securities Ltd., Bonanza Portfolio Ltd., Centrum Broking Ltd., Edelweiss Broking Ltd., Edelweiss Securities Ltd., Eurekha Stock & Share Brokers Ltd., Finwizard Technology Private Limited, Globe Capital Markets Ltd., HDFC Securities Limited, IDBI Capital Markets and Securities Limited, JM Financial Services Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited, Keynote Capitals Limited, Kotak Securities Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt. Ltd., Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Prudent Corporate Advisory Services Ltd., Religare Broking Ltd., Reliance Securities, RR Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd., Sharekhan Ltd., SMC Global Securities Ltd., Systematix shares and stock India Ltd., Tradebulls Securities Limited, Upstox, Yes Securities (India) Ltd. and Zerodha

Escrow Collection Bank(s)/ Refund Bank(s): Axis Bank Limited • **Public Offer Account Bank :** Axis Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited • **Sponsor Bank (s) :** Axis Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited • **UPI:** UPI Bidders can also bid through UPI Mechanism

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

Place: Ahmedabad
Date: January 25, 2023

For ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Jatin Jalundhwala
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

ADANI ENTERPRISES LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an further public Offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with RoC on January 18, 2023. The RHP shall be available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and is available on the websites of the BRLMs i.e. ICICI Securities Limited , Jefferies India Private Limited, SBI Capital Markets Limited, Axis Capital Limited, BOB Capital Markets Limited, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited, JM Financial Limited, IIFL Securities Limited, Monarch Networth Capital Limited, and Elara Capital (India) Private Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, www.jefferies.com, www.sbicaps.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.bobcaps.in, www.idbicapital.com, www.jmfl.com, www.iiflcap.com, www.mnclgroup.com and www.elaracapital.com , respectively. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section entitled *"Risk Factors"* on page 26 of the RHP.

These materials are not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States. These materials are not an offer for the sale of the Equity Shares or other securities in the United States or elsewhere. The Equity Shares referred to herein have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. **No public offering of the Equity Shares or other securities is being made in the United States.**

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INBRIEF

Rayanna, Bose statues will be installed in govt. colleges: CM

The State government will order installation of statues of Sangolli Rayanna and Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in all government colleges, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said here on Thursday. Speaking at the 192nd remembrance day function of Sangolli Rayanna, he said that it was imperative for children to know the martyrs who fought against alien rule, and that efforts should be made to identify personalities who inspired children. "Sangolli Rayanna and Kittur Chennamma fought the British 40 years before the First War of Independence. It is important that their stories of valour be told to children," he said. Regarding naming of Belagavi airport after Sangolli Rayanna, he said: "A decision would be taken after consulting stakeholders and leaders of the region." Incidentally, Sangolli Rayanna was born on August 15, the Independence Day, and was hanged on January 26, Republic Day, two important days for our country, he added.

Relief of ₹10,000 per hectare for toor farmers

In the light of extensive damage to red gram (toor) crop in Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Yadgir districts, the State government has announced a compensation of ₹10,000 per hectare but has limited it to a maximum of two hectares per farmer as per the NDRF/SDRF guidelines. The total compensation to be distributed to toor growers will be around ₹223 crore, according to a press release. This decision was taken at a meeting of senior officials of various departments presided over by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. In view of unprecedented rain followed by dry/moist weather conditions post-November in Bidar, Kalaburagi, and Yadgir districts, the red gram crop was attacked by pests.

Assembly polls: Political parties get competitive in vying for Muslim votes

This is starkly visible in Kalyana Karnataka and coastal regions where there are more players

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Muslim women exercise their votes at Doddamaghatta polling station in Bhadravati taluk of Shivamogga during the 2013 Assembly elections.

Ahead of the Legislative Assembly elections in the State, a slew of political parties, including the Opposition Congress and the JD(S), are in one-upmanship mode in making promises to court Muslim votes. Whether this will lead to splintering of votes and how it will impact the results remains to be seen.

Muslims constitute approximately around 13% of the population in Karnataka. The community is significant in close to 40 constituencies and plays a key factor in at least 70 segments. In the 2018 elections, the Congress and the JD(S) fielded 17 Muslim candidates each. Of them, seven Congress candidates made it to the Assembly, while the JD(S) drew a blank. The BJP did not field Muslim candidates in 2018.

The big three

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah recently announced that ₹10,000 crore would be allocated each year for the welfare of Muslims if the party is voted to power. Generally, annual allocation for welfare of minorities has been around ₹3,000 crore.

JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy stated that his party is open to appointing a Muslim leader as Chief Minister if it comes to power. The party has already appointed veteran leader C.M. Ibrahim as the State president. It has also launched an intensive campaign lashing out at the BJP on the ruling party's communal agenda.

The BJP, too, which has faced flak over the last year for allegedly targeting the Muslim community, has urged its cadre to "reach out" to Muslims and other religious minorities following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal. A few days ago, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said that Mr. Modi had advised BJP leaders to make efforts to take Muslims into confidence.

In the Kalyana Karnataka and coastal regions, several smaller outfits are making a bid for Muslim votes. Former Minister and mining baron G. Janardhana Reddy, who started his second innings in politics by floating a new party, Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha (KRPK), visited the Ajmer Darga and offered special prayers. Mr. Reddy has apparently promised to field a good number of Muslim candidates in Ballari, Vijayanagar, Raichur, and Koppal districts.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) Asaduddin Owaisi and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), which are largely seen as minority community vote bank parties, are expected to field candidates in the KK and coastal/malnad regions. The electoral contest is bound to get tighter by the likely entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Left parties.

It remains to be seen whether KPPK, AIMIM, SDPI, AAP, and NCP which are likely to raise communal issues targeting the ruling BJP, become "vote-cutters" in the Assembly polls as in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and other north Indian States. Its impact on Congress is to be watched for.

A total 105 Muslim aspirants of the Congress have submitted applications seeking tickets to contest forthcoming polls. Leaders of the community have been demanding seats in 28 constituencies. The JD (S) too is likely to field Muslim candidates in two dozen segments, sources told *The Hindu*.

Ashok faces heat in Mandya after he is appointed Minister in charge of the dist.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister R. Ashok

Revenue Minister R. Ashok was greeted with "Go Back Ashok" posters in Mandya on Thursday as he visited the district to unfurl the tricolour on Republic Day. He was appointed as the district in-charge Minister replacing K. Gopalaiah.

While who put up those posters remains a mystery, discontentment has been brewing within the party in Mandya over Mr. Ashok replacing Mr. Gopalaiah. Siddaramaiah, who contested the Lok Sabha byelections from the district on a BJP ticket in 2018, openly expressed his displeasure on the issue.

"BJP leader Amit Shah has clearly said there will be no 'adjustment politics' with the JD(S). There is unhappiness over the decision and we will do whatever is required at the party level. We will ensure the interests of party workers," he said, taking potshots at Mr. Ashok.

'Instigated by other parties'

Mr. Ashok hit back at Dr. Siddaramaiah and said he had never done "any adjustment politics" and it was out of the question. "Party workers in the district are happy with my appointment and we had a meeting too. Some people seem to be instigated by other parties as they fear that when I am in-charge BJP will perform better and upset their designs," he said. The saffron party is keen on improving its footprints in Mandya and others parts of Old Mysore region.

Sources in the party said that Mr. Gopalaiah, a former JD(S) leader, had been in-charge of both Hassan and Mandya, key districts of the Vokkaliga heartland, and Mr. Ashok had been without an in-charge district for a long time.

Repeated appeals

While his repeated appeals to give him Bengaluru Development portfolio had not borne fruit due to a strong contest by C.N. Ashwath Narayan, he was made in-charge of Mandya by the Chief Minister. However, Mr. Ashok's appointment seems to have triggered the same contest in the heartland too, party sources said.

Sources said Mr. Gopalaiah had good relations with JD(S) whose "cooperation" was crucial in Hassan and Mandya, where the regional party has most of its MLAs and a change of guard in Mandya could have upset local JD(S) leaders too, sources said.

State cannot compel voluntary relinquishment of land when owners are not inclined: HC

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government cannot compel landowners to voluntarily relinquish land for public purposes merely because some other landowners have given up their land on their own, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

No legal ground

"If others have given up their land, that cannot be a legal ground to compel the petitioners to give up their land too, since constitutionally guarantee avails to the property of individuals and not necessarily the collection of individuals. An argument to the contrary would undermine the sanctity and efficacy of Article 300A of the Constitution and therefore, cannot be countenanced," the court said.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit made these observations while partly allowing the petitions filed by K.V. Srinivas Rao and several others from Sagar in Shivamogga district. The petitioners had complained that the State authorities are exerting pressure on them to relinquish their land on their own as was done by the owners of a few other properties for widening a road in Sagar Municipal Council limits.

The court agreed with the arguments made on behalf of the petitioners that the State authorities cannot compel them to give up their land when they are not ready to do so, the only option available to the authorities to acquire the land as per the law.

The court made it clear that the State authorities cannot interfere with the possession of the land belonging to the petitioners for road widening except by resorting to acquisition as per the law, namely the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

Congress may release first list in Feb. second week

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 1,450 aspirants have applied for ticket in 224 Assembly constituencies

Amidst a demand from ticket aspirants and leaders alike, the Congress is expected to release its first list of candidates for about 150 seats in the second week of February before the arrival of leader Rahul Gandhi.

While the names of candidates of about 150 constituencies, including the 69 sitting legislators are likely to be cleared by the second week of February, candidates for the rest of the 74 constituencies will be announced later. As many as 1,450 aspirants have applied for ticket in 224 Assembly constituencies in the State.

"The candidature of the sitting legislators, those who lost the last poll with narrow margins and candidates with winnability factor will be announced in the 150 seats. There is consensus among AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala, Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah, and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar for these seats. There has been a demand within the party to announce the names early so that the candidates can prepare for the elections," party sources said.

"Leaders had been appointed to each Lok Sabha constituencies and asked for panel of names for assembly segments falling under the parliamentary constituency. The pradesh election committee will screen the candidates here and will be announced by the central election committee by the second week of February second week."

Sources said: "There are constituencies where Congress president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Siddaramaiah, and Mr. Shivakumar are seeking tickets for their followers. There is intense competition in some of the seats for which candidates would be announced later. There are about 35 to 40 such seats."

Meanwhile, Mr. Rahul will in Karnataka for electoral meetings after February 20 by which time the party would have released its first list. Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have been asked to cover as many Assembly constituencies as possible by that time. Both will be touring North and South Karnataka separately too.

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Chief Mechanical Engineer

Rains hamper coffee harvest in plantation districts: KPA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Unseasonal rains have battered the plantation districts of Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Hassan, and Chamarajanagar in the last few days hampering coffee harvesting and berry drying activities while also adversely impacting fresh blossoms in the region, said the Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA) on Wednesday.

"Prevailing inclement weather delays drying of harvested and processed crops in drying yards leading to quality deterioration. Stalk rot and root diseases can result if the rains continue. Coffee blossoms that are going to be berries for the next season are also affected," said KPA chairman Mahesh Shashidhar.

The early arrival of blossom rains have affected the harvesting of coffee crop and may also cause damage to fresh blossoms, due to which the coffee growers' community stare at a further loss of the crop, according to Mr. Shashidhar.

In view of this untoward climatic situation, KPA requested Central and State governments to provide relief to the affected plantation growers. "Banks also should take note of the damage and restructure the loan accounts and provide relief to coffee growers," he added.

Heavy rains in November and December 2022 had severely damaged standing coffee crops and coffee plants. "Growers incurred huge crop losses after berries turned black and started dropping. This led to crop quality deterioration and growers incurred a loss of more than 35%," Mr. Shashidhar said.

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Family & Friends

KERALA

Governor calls for progressive transformation in education

PTI

Leading Kerala's Republic Day celebrations at the Central Stadium in Thiruvananthapuram, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan called for progressive transformation in the State's higher education to limit the flow of students to other States and countries and reap the benefits of the country's projected demographic dividend. Mr. Khan hoisted the National Flag and received salute at the ceremonial parade that was attended by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Later, Mr. Khan and his wife Reshma Arif offered sweets to children.

TAMIL NADU

Governor, Chief Minister Stalin come together for Republic Day

S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin came together for the Republic Day celebrations in Chennai on Thursday, over a fortnight after a bitter face-off in the Assembly. The Governor unfurled the national flag in the presence of Mr. Stalin, Madras High Court Acting Chief Justice T. Raja. A float with the slogan, 'Tamil Nadu Vaazhga' (Long live Tamil Nadu), an initiative of the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, led those of various departments as the Governor, the CM, and others watched them.

ANDHRA PRADESH

State government has achieved the real 'Gram Swaraj': Harichandan

K.V.S. GIRI

The Andhra Pradesh government has achieved the real 'Gram Swaraj' , Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan has said. Mr. Harichandan unfurled the National Flag and inspected the parade held by the State government on Thursday. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and others took part in the celebrations. In his speech, Mr. Harichandan said, "The essence of the 73-year-old Constitution is being carried out by the State government in true letter and spirit in the past 43 months of the governance."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and west Rajasthan. Dense to very dense fog likely in some areas of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Dense fog in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh, north Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.7	15.0	Kozhikode	—	33.6	23.8
Ahmedabad	—	25.4	8.6	Kurnool	—	33.4	17.7
Aizawl	—	—	9.8	Lucknow	4	25.0	13.5
Allahabad	—	28.3	17.0	Madurai	—	32.5	19.5
Bengaluru	—	29.6	15.5	Mangaluru	—	32.0	22.8
Bhopal	—	—	15.8	Mumbai	—	25.7	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	34.2	15.8	Mysuru	—	30.0	12.6
Chandigarh	5	14.3	11.6	New Delhi	—	19.2	10.4
Chennai	—	30.1	21.2	Patna	—	25.9	17.0
Coimbatore	—	30.8	19.0	Port Blair	—	30.4	25.8
Dehradun	—	25.3	10.6	Puducherry	—	31.2	19.0
Gangtok	—	15.3	7.4	Pune	—	31.1	19.0
Goa	—	30.0	20.2	Raipur	—	32.5	17.0
Guwahati	—	27.4	12.5	Ranchi	—	28.4	15.4
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	20.2	8.0
Hyderabad	—	30.2	18.3	Shimla	5	14.9	2.5
Imphal	—	26.1	6.3	Srinagar	5.6	5.6	1.2
Jaipur	—	22.0	10.9	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	22.3
Kochi	—	30.8	24.0	Tiruchi	—	30.4	20.4
Kohima	—	19.0	6.8	Vijayawada	—	29.6	18.0
Kolkata	—	31.0	17.5	Visakhapatnam	—	31.2	19.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.24	5	.17	173	183	
Bengaluru	.10	.47	.18	419	—	
Chennai	.21	.34	.39	255	148	
Delhi	9	.55	.38	376	211	
Hyderabad	5	.47	.35	135	150	
Kolkata	.19	.13	.10	266	139	
Lucknow	.28	.20	.54	80	87	
Mumbai	.21	249	100	364	193	
Pune	—	.23	.43	343	214	
Visakhapatnam	5	.73	.53	275	270	

Yesterday

Nil

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

R-Day held in Telangana on court orders

K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his Cabinet colleagues skip the event held at the Raj Bhavan; Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, who has serious differences with the Chief Minister, says she will play her role in the development of the State, no matter the obstacles she may have to face

N. Rahul
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government organised Republic Day at the Raj Bhavan following a direction by the High Court to celebrate the event at any cost with Central guidelines.

The government did not want to celebrate the occasion for the third consecutive year at the sprawling Parade Ground in Secunderabad citing COVID safeguards. An activist and businessman from Hyderabad K. Srinivas had moved a lunch motion in the High Court on January 25 seeking instruction to the government to conduct the celebrations in "it's true spirit and fervour". Disposing of the case, the court ordered the government to hold the celebration wherever it wanted but insisted on the conduct of traditional parade and Standard Operating Procedures laid down by the Ministry of Defence.

The government at the last hour made arrangements at Raj Bhavan and went ahead with the programme in the presence of Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari, Director General of Police Anjani Kumar and other senior bureaucrats. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao and his Cabinet colleagues, however, did not participate, like they did in the last two years.

Telangana Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan felicitates music composer M.M. Keeravani in Hyderabad on Thursday. NAGARA GOPAL

In her address, Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, who nursed serious differences with the Chief Minister, indirectly criticised Mr. Rao saying some people did not like her but she would go on with her programmes.

Ms. Soundararajan said she would play her role in the development of the State, no matter the obstacles she might have to face. She gave a call to the people to protect democracy and Constitution in Telangana, uphold the State's dignity and honour. "It should not be farmhouses to some people but farms to all in the State," she remarked, indirectly hinting at the farmhouse of Mr. Rao in his constituency of Gajwel.

Agitating developments

The Governor deplored the agitating developments in the State such as the suicide by 22 people on an average daily. Referring to the construction of a huge Secretariat complex for the government, she said it was not important to construct buildings but "nation building" should take priority.

While interacting with media at Raj Nivas in Puducherry, she said, "It is a flagrant violation of the constitution by the Telangana government of not inviting the Governor of the State for Republic Day celebrations. I am used to the boycott by the Chief Minister but now he has insulted the constitution by not involving Raj Bhavan in the Republic Day event."

"The government says it didn't have the time to organise the parade. But on my part, I organised the Republic Day event at Raj Bhavan and unfurled the national flag. I also gave awards to six persons before leaving to Puducherry," she said. Ms. Soundararajan is holding additional charge as Lt. Governor of Puducherry.

(With inputs from Puducherry)

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Civic work under way at Jayanagar. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

TenderSure work in progress at BEML Layout. K. MURALI KUMAR

Development work at Ganganagar. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Bengaluru sees a slew of civil work ahead of elections

While the Budget said ₹6,000 crore worth of work, under Amrut Nagarothana Scheme, will be taken up over three years, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has issued orders worth ₹6,000 crore in the last four months alone

White-topping as well as sewerage work being undertaken by BBMP at Indiranagar. The work has been ongoing for many months inconveniencing pedestrians and motorists. K. MURALI KUMAR

Ongoing development work at Chamarajpet. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Civic work under way at Gandhi Bazaar. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Almost every road and pavement in Bengaluru is currently dug up, as civil work is going on in nearly all localities simultaneously. Tertiary drains are being remade, roads re-asphalted, footpaths relaid and storm-water drains concretised.

Social media is abuzz with posts of citizens coming down heavily on how it has become extremely difficult to negotiate traffic in the city. "Bengalureans have no experience of living in a war-ravaged city. But it is no longer true," one of the citizens said on Facebook recently.

A blast of civil work, months before Assembly elections, seems to be the strategy of not only ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), but MLAs cutting across party lines in the city. Ongoing civic work, especially in residential localities at the ward level during an election season, is definitely a boost to the MLAs, said an incumbent BJP MLA.

Three year's work in a year

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who holds charge of both Bengaluru Development and Finance, announced in the State Budget 2022-23 that ₹6,000 crore worth of work, under Amrut Nagarothana Scheme, would be taken up over three years. However, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued work orders for ₹6,000 crore worth of work in the last four months alone.

While ₹1,500 crore has been earmarked for storm-water drains and ₹1,400 crore for white-topping of roads, nearly ₹3,000 crore is being spent on ward works – which is the most visible form of development activity, mostly asphalting of roads, remaking tertiary drains and footpaths, that MLAs are keen on.

MLAs take credit

Flex boards with the faces of MLAs "apologising" to people for the inconvenience due to ongoing work – a new trend in the city – clearly aims to remind the voters who is getting the work done in the crucial election season. The new strategy circumvents a court ruling that only photographs of those holding constitutional positions can be put on civil work-related hoardings.

In the absence of an elected civic body, MLAs have become the face of all civic work – even those in the wards taken by the civic body. "If there was a civic body, the MLAs couldn't have taken credit for all civic projects in their constituency, as councillors in the constituency would invariably be from multiple parties and it would have created a contested space. Now, MLAs are walking away with everything. Civic polls have been pending since September 2020 and MLAs, cutting across party lines, have blocked elections till after Assembly polls later this year," said a former BJP councillor.

Election funds

More importantly, what mostly remains unsaid is that alleged kickbacks from these contracts will also probably fund the upcoming Assembly polls in the city.

"Despite our repeated vocal protests, the reality of "40% commission" for contracts hasn't changed one bit. It may have actually worsened a bit, as everyone now demands 40%. The slew of civil work by BBMP is no exception. Unless contractors pay the commission, contracts won't materialise and MLAs, cutting across party lines, are the key operators in this ring," alleged a senior contractor of the BBMP Contractors' Association, who did not wish to be named.

Another contractor alleged that collecting funds from contractors during election time is an old practice and it has only deteriorated further. With a criminal defamation case and an injunction order pending before the court, contractors are largely not speaking up.

Discontent over Amrut Nagarothana

The allocation of funds under the Amrut Nagarothana Scheme has also come under severe criticism by the opposition Congress. Senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy had held a press conference and alleged that allocation of funds after the BBMP budget was presented in 2022 was highly partisan. A Congress MLA said constituencies represented by BJP and Congress seem to have got funds allotted to them in almost a 70:30 ratio.

Meanwhile, there is no clarity on whether the State government has released matching grants to the civic body.

If not, pending bills at BBMP, presently pegged at around ₹2,700 crore and not cleared for works carried out in the past 25 months, will only mount further.

In fact, the civic body has sought a loan of ₹600 crore from the State government to clear some pending bills immediately to stave off protests. BBMP Contractors Association had gone on a one-day strike over pending bills on January 9.

As opposition Congress recently held protests at over 300 locations in the city simultaneously giving a call to "root out corruption and save Bengaluru", blaming the incumbent BJP government for "crumbling infrastructure" of the city, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai tweeted, "Due to our government's unwavering emphasis on growth and development, Bengaluru is firmly entrenched on the path of progress." He cited Amrut Nagarothana Scheme.

What about quality of work?

But contractors themselves are sceptical of the quality of work, given the demand for kickbacks, which they say cuts across party lines. "Contractors are usually forced to pay upfront before a contract is awarded, pushing them into debt. This leaves little working capital for the ongoing projects. Work may be visible, but its quality and durability is questionable," a senior contractor admitted. N. S. Mukunda, of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, lamented, "Sadly, the political class seems to have a very low opinion of the people. They think we will fall for this elaborate charade ahead of elections. With the unprecedented allegations made by contractors openly about kickbacks, it is evident why various projects are being taken up at this point in time. People can see through these machinations. But it is unfair to blame the politicians alone. Unless there are electoral reforms, the system will not be fixed."

State Budget 2022-23

Amrut Nagarothana Scheme will be implemented at an expenditure of ₹6,000 crore in the next 3 years to provide infrastructure facilities in Bengaluru. Under this scheme, development of roads, lakes, storm-water drains, parks and buildings will be taken up, besides work on grade separator, solid waste management, etc.

Three-year work in one year

BBMP has issued work orders for the entire gamut of projects costing ₹6,000 crore, supposed to be taken up over 3 years, in the last four months.

Breakup

Storm-water drain work	₹1,500 crore
White-topping of roads	₹1,400 crore
High-density corridors	₹289 crore
Remainder of over	₹2,800 crore allocated for ward work

A poster with photos of politicians, regarding ongoing pedestrian overbridge work in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

metroPLUS

Welcome to Web3
Dr Wafu with his work at New BEL Road SOCIAL.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Digital art in physical space

SOCIAL launches an exclusive physical gallery for NFT art in New BEL Road

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

Despite reports about the decline of the Non-fungible token (NFT) market, SOCIAL has opened an exclusive physical gallery for NFT art in New BEL Road, Bengaluru.

According to the cafe chain, the latest outlet, launched on January 14, is the first phase of their induction into the Web3 space. It would have a monthly curation of artwork. The inaugural display, curated by digital artist Angad B Sodhi, is titled 'Welcome to Web 3'. Featuring works of Bengaluru-based NFT artists including Prasad Bhat, Dr Wafu, AB Verse, and more, it has been on display since January 23.

Mayank Bhatt, Chief Executive Officer, Impresario Handmade Restaurants, underplays fears about the decline of the NFT market. "The NFT crash does not impact us in any way, as our decision to launch the NFT gallery was not commercially, but community-driven."

Angad reckons this is the "real beginning for the NFT space" in India. "While Web2 was the beginning of the creator economy, a major problem was that the creator did not own what they were putting up on the platform. Now with web3, the creator not only owns the assets but can also include royalty clauses, which is a game-changer."

Bengaluru, he believes, is the most prominent city when it comes to Web3. "Most of the startups in web3 ecosystem in India have been nurtured in Bangalore and thereby making it an obvious choice for anyone in the NFT space. It has the largest population with a basic understanding of what NFT and Web3 is."

About the inaugural curation, which will be on for the next four weeks, Angad says he wanted to tell a story through it. "We wanted people from the same city to see their fellow community members, who have built a name for themselves in the NFT space and gained popularity, display their art. Since this was a brand-new concept, us bringing in local artists created a sense of community belonging."

Customers can view the artwork on digital screens and also purchase the ones they like. The outlet has been conceptualised as a meeting place for artists, creators, and entrepreneurs. Apart from the space for art, the outlet also offers food and beverage.

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Portentous overkill

Arrests and blocking of access to BBC documentary were unwarranted

The aftermath of the release of a BBC documentary on the Gujarat pogrom of 2002, which questions the actions taken by the then Gujarat government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, can only be termed as yet another rendition of the 'Streisand effect'. After issuing directions to disable access to the first episode on websites using emergency powers under the IT Rules, 2021 and Section 69A of the IT Act, 2000, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) also blocked over 50 tweets with a link to the documentary. But this only resulted in citizens gaining access through screenings and shares over smartphones – akin to how the suppression of information has the unintended consequences of raising more awareness, or the 'Streisand effect'. Other actions such as the police detention of 13 students at Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi, on the pretext that they were about to have a screening were an overkill and amounted to an abuse of power. It goes without saying that the government should not arbitrarily block the dissemination of media content just because it is critical of the regime. Its justification to use emergency powers to block access to the documentary, as being propagandist and of a colonial mindset, does not hold water if it is seen in the continuum of coverage of the pogrom and the aftermath. In any case, propaganda should be countered by propaganda, and not censorship.

The events that led to the pogrom, the horrific crimes, the callousness of the then regime and the lack of sufficient recourse to law and order steps, have all been well recorded and commented upon in the Indian press. The BBC documentary is just another media investigation into a portion of India's history that changed the course of the polity not just in Gujarat but also elsewhere. The online blocking of the first episode using emergency powers cannot be justified on the basis provided by the MIB that it is "propagandist", and only reflects a recent tendency to utilise IT rules to assert executive power rather than address this as a free speech issue. The IT rules were amended in February 2021 to allow for increased government control over online news publications – actions that are now being heard in courts. Recent High Court orders have also weighed in on the need to protect free speech and have stayed the government's moves to control freedom of expression on digital platforms. In its actions, a clear case can be made that the central government is more keen on blocking critical content than using the IT rules to regulate hate speech and misinformation – the true bane of the digital media ecosystem today.

No control

The U.S. seems unable to bring tight controls on assault weapons

Two mass shootings in 48 hours earlier this month in the U.S. State of California, claiming 18 lives, have been yet another grave reminder of the plague of gun violence confronting the world's most powerful country. On January 21, in California's Monterey Park, a gunman massacred 11 people in the country's deadliest mass shooting so far this year. Two days later, seven people were killed in Half Moon Bay, in northern California. A few hours later, a shooting in Oakland resulted in one person being killed and seven others injured. "Tragedy upon tragedy," was California Governor Gavin Newsom's lament about the shootings. U.S. President Joe Biden, once again, called for a ban on assault weapons. Besides these statements, it is doubtful whether the U.S. Congress would pass any meaningful gun control laws. In January alone, there have been 38 shooting incidents in 17 different U.S. States. In the U.S., where the Second Amendment assures citizens of the right to bear arms, there are about 120 firearms for every 100 residents. Yet, despite repeated mass shootings, the U.S. still does not have strong national-level gun control laws. Every time a mass shooting takes place, Presidents issue strong statements and calls for legislative action, which fall on deaf ears.

Last year, after an 18-year-old former student shot down 19 elementary schoolchildren in Uvalde, Texas, Congress passed the widest firearms legislation, the first in three decades, which expanded background checks for gun purchasers under 21 and imposed penalties on gun trafficking and straw purchases. Though widely welcomed, it was not enough to control gun violence in a country with the world's largest per capita guns. The Supreme Court's decision last year to strike down a New York State law that placed restrictions on carrying guns outside the home by reaffirming the Second Amendment was a setback for attempts to bring in strict Statewise legislation. House Democrats passed an assault weapons ban last year, but it never reached Mr. Biden's desk as the Bill was stalled in the Senate. Republicans have often invoked constitutional rights to stall legislation. The deep-pocketed and influential National Rifle Association and the powerful gun manufacturing industry have consistently opposed gun control measures, despite polls showing a vast desire for stricter controls. Everyone knows what needs to be done – tougher gun controls. But it is surprising and tragic that a democracy that takes pride in its values and a superpower that has gone to wars in the name of protecting its citizens, seems helpless when it comes to doing what has to be done even when hundreds of Americans get killed every year due to gun violence.

A betrayal of the very idea of the Mahatma

Shashi Tharoor

is a Congress Member of Parliament and former United Nations Under Secretary General

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination (January 30, 1948) by a Hindu fanatic who thought the Mahatma was too soft on Muslims. The momentous anniversary comes at a time when his legacy, the very idea of Gandhi, stands challenged by the prevailing ideological currents. At a time when the standing of his historic detractors, whose descendants now form the ruling dispensation in the country, is at an all-time high, Gandhiji has been criticised for weakness, for having bent over too far to accommodate Muslim interests, and for his pacifism, which is seen by the jingoistic Hindutva movement as unmanly.

The Mahatma was killed, with the name of Rama on his lips, for being too pro-Muslim; indeed, he had just come out of a fast he had conducted to coerce his own followers, the Ministers of the new Indian government, to transfer a larger share than they had intended of the assets of undivided India to the new state of Pakistan. Gandhiji had also announced his intention to spurn the country he had failed to keep united and to spend the rest of his years in Pakistan, a prospect that had made the government of Pakistan collectively choke.

But that was the enigma of Gandhiji in a nutshell: idealistic, quirky, quixotic, and determined, a man who answered to the beat of no other drummer, but got everyone else to march to his tune. Someone once called him a cross between a saint and a Tammany Hall politician; like the best crossbreeds, he managed to distil all the qualities of both and yet transcend their contradictions.

Explaining a contradiction now

The contradiction is mirrored in the attitude of the Hindutva-inspired Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi was schooled, like other Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) *pracharaks*, in an intense dislike of Mahatma Gandhi, whose message of tolerance and pluralism was emphatically rejected as minority appeasement by the Sangh Parivar, and whose credo of non-violence, or *ahimsa*, was seen as an admission of weakness unworthy of manly Hindus. Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, whom Mr. Modi has described as one of his heroes, had expressed contempt for Gandhiji's 'perverse doctrine of non-violence and truth' and claimed it 'was bound to destroy the power of the country'. But Prime Minister Modi, for all his Hindutva mindset, his admiration of Savarkar and his lifetime affiliation to the Sangh Parivar, has embraced Gandhiji, hailing the Mahatma and even using his glasses as a symbol of the Swachh Bharat campaign, linking it to a call to revive Gandhiji's idea of *seva* through the recent '*Swachhata Hi Seva*' campaign.

> The principles Gandhiji stood for represent an ideal that is being weakened every day by those in power who are pushing their agenda of bigotry

This may, or may not, represent a sincere conversion to Gandhism. The Prime Minister is hardly unaware of the tremendous worldwide reputation that Mahatma Gandhi enjoys, and is too savvy a marketing genius not to recognise the soft-power opportunity evoking Gandhiji provides, not to mention the global public relations disaster that would ensue if he were to denounce an Indian so universally admired. There may, therefore, be an element of insincerity to his newfound love for the Mahatma, as well as a shrewd domestic political calculation.

But the ambivalence speaks volumes: when many members of Mr. Modi's BJP call for replacing Gandhiji's statues across the country with those of his assassin, Nathuram Godse, the Prime Minister seeks to lay claim to the mantle of his fellow Gujarati for his own political benefit. At the same time, there is also a tangible dissonance between the official governmental embrace of Gandhiji and the unofficial ideological distaste for this icon, that is privately promoted by members and supporters of the present ruling dispensation, some of whose members have not hidden their view that his assassination was, in their eyes, a patriotic act.

The vision of the Mahatma

It is a well understood reality that the vision of Gandhiji, an openly practising Hindu, differed greatly from that of Veer Savarkar and M.S. Golwalkar, the principal ideologues of the Hindu Mahasabha and its more militarised alter ego in the post-Independence era, the R SS and eventually, the BJP (formerly the Jana Sangh).

Gandhiji embodied the central approach of *Advaita Vedanta*, which preached an inclusive universal religion. Gandhiji saw Hinduism as a faith that respected and embraced all other faiths. He was profoundly influenced by the principles of *ahimsa* and *satya* and gave both a profound meaning when he applied them to the nationalist cause. He was a synthesiser of cultural belief systems: his signature bhajan of 'Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram' had another line, 'Ishwara Allah *Tero naam*'. This practice emerged from his Vedantic belief in the oneness of all human beings, who share the same *atman* and, therefore, should be treated equally.

Such behaviour did not endear him to every Hindu. In his treatise on 'Gandhi's Hinduism and Savarkar's Hindutva', the social scientist Rudolf C. Heredia places his two protagonists within an ongoing debate between heterogeneity versus homogeneity in the Hindu faith, pointing out that while Gandhi's response is inclusive and ethical, Savarkar politicises Hinduism as a majoritarian creed. But Gandhiji's own understanding of religion, in Heredia's words, "transcended religiosity, Hindu as well as that of any other tradition. It is essentially a spiritual quest for moksha but one rooted in the reality of service to the last and least in the world". Unlike Savarkar, who believed in conformity, Gandhiji was a synthesiser like no other who took care to include Indians of other faiths in his capacious and agglomerative understanding of religion. He took inspiration from not just *Advaita Vedanta* but also the Jain concept of '*Anekantavada*' – the notion that truth and reality are perceived differently by different people from their own different points of view, and that, therefore, no single perception can constitute the complete truth. This led him to once declare that 'I am a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Parsi, a Jew'.

Hinduism and Hindutva, as I have argued in my book *Why I Am a Hindu*, represent two very distinct and contrasting ideas, with vitally different implications for nationalism and the role of the Hindu faith. The principles Gandhiji stood for and the way in which he asserted them are easier to admire than to follow. But they represented an ideal that is betrayed every day by those who distort Hinduism to promote a narrow, exclusionary bigotry.

A 'Holocaust education' for India to create a just present

Naor Gilon

is the Ambassador of Israel to India, Sri Lanka and Bhutan

Philipp Ackermann

is the Ambassador of Germany to India and Bhutan

Hezekiel Dlamini

is the Officer-in-Charge, UNESCO New Delhi

Six million Jews were murdered in cold blood – a consequence of the worst form of government-sponsored antisemitism in Nazi-Germany. Today, on International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27), we remember those who became the victims of the unprecedented and systematic killings. Remembering the dead is our responsibility, and fighting against antisemitism and hatred is our resolve.

The need to counter disruptive behaviours

Violence and hatred are learned behaviours that disrupt the core humanitarian principles of peaceful co-existence and acceptance of differences. The Holocaust stands as a jarring example of the deadly consequences of hate crimes and antisemitism that made their way from the fringes to the mainstream. With antisemitism as the case in point, this is particularly dangerous when used for power-related purposes, or to appease anxieties during times of crisis and uncertainty. In this way, ideologies of hate can permeate the social fabric as human frailty gets exploited.

Unfortunately, the world is still struggling with inequality, intolerance, and injustice in many places. As evidence suggests, a host of grave economic, cultural, religious and ethnic issues continue to provoke division, hate crimes, and violence in many parts of the globe. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of antisemitic incidents against Jews all around the world. Most of these were incidents of harassment but hate speech on social media, assaults and antisemitic vandalism have also spiked in recent years. We must counter these phenomena, to avoid wider societal tension and conflict.

> By teaching India's youth to view the Holocaust catastrophe as a watershed moment in history, they can be equipped with core values such as empathy and tolerance to tackle the future

A path of remembrance

Today, as we mark the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, we recall the systematic murder of six million Jews. The Shoah or the Holocaust, in which Jews were systematically targeted solely for being born Jewish, stands out as a defining moment in history. Education about the Holocaust helps us understand the processes and factors that lead to the eradication of human rights and democratic values, and identify circumstances that can lead to the increase in hate speech, violence, and even mass atrocities. It is our duty to remember the past in order to understand that the relevance and impact of the Holocaust transcend time and history.

This path of remembrance is a moral imperative for many countries in Europe, and around the world. One of the key messages of Holocaust remembrance is vigilance against dehumanisation and discrimination. Instead of erasing the past, we must educate people to ensure that there is no residue of this deep-rooted history of discrimination and build up resilience to ideologies of hate and a cognisance of the effects.

Drawing from the concept of 'reparative futures', we must find ways to talk about the past by imbuing the responsibility to 'never forget' and developing competencies to fulfil the promise of 'never again' among the youth.

Important UNESCO initiatives such as the International Program on Holocaust and Genocide Education (IPHGE) are a step in the direction of fostering reparative justice. By teaching the youth to view this catastrophe as a watershed moment in history with the possibility of its recurrence in other shapes and forms elsewhere, we can equip them with fundamental skills, values, and dispositions to address future challenges, such as critical thinking, empathy, tolerance, and respect for human rights.

For teachers and youth

Coming to terms with this past is equally important for countries that are seemingly unaffected by Nazism and antisemitism. It is unsurprising that for the academic community in India, the Holocaust remains a geographically and emotionally distant historical event.

At a time when antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, Holocaust denial, and distortion are on the rise globally, we must provide the youth with opportunities to engage with this history and interrogate the injustices of the past to create a just present. Likewise, teachers need to be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop and deliver lessons about the history of the Holocaust that resonate with their students in today's world.

After all, forewarned is forearmed. Education suffused with learnings from the past can demonstrate, as Jean-Paul Sartre very rightly said, that individual choices or the lack thereof can indeed make a difference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Heed the message

It was heartening to hear the President of India's address to the nation on the eve of Republic day (Page 1, January 26). Highlighting the fact that multiple creeds and languages are the essence of India, lauding the architects of the Constitution (which has certainly withstood the test of time) and steady progress possible through collective wisdom, were beautifully summarised by the President. Her address comes at the appropriate time, especially when there are systematic efforts being made to 'showcase' Hindi as the main language. There is no other nation in the world with such a vast diversity in terms of languages and religions, all living in great harmony. This alone is what sets India apart from the rest of the world.

The vision of the architects of the Constitution to ensure that India is one and together is unmatchable.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

While the President has spoken about multiple creeds and languages as being the essence of India, the government of the day is busy working on a formula of one language and one religion for the country which negates the speech of the President. Do we cry or laugh at these contradictions?

V. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

The President of India has rightly highlighted the stellar role played by the Constitution of India and its architects in moulding, shaping and transforming the nation into a "confident" and vibrant one. But for the most comprehensive and elaborate Constitution crafted by the erudite and far-sighted B.R. Ambedkar and the members of the Constituent Assembly, with strong checks and balances, the nation would have gone through more turbulent times in the last seven decades. Even while delineating the separate, but interdependent, roles of the three organs of our democratic government, the Constitution makers have shown great wisdom by delegating the power of judicial review of any legislative, executive and administrative action to the Supreme Court. Time and again, this power vested by the Constitution in the Supreme Court of India has proved to be a blessing, as it has protected the people from the excessive actions of the other organs of the government.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

The President has made two salient points of immense significance — that the Constitution reflects the spirit of India. And that diversity forms the core and essence of India. However, it must be pointed out that the President's emphasis is in stark contrast to what the ruling dispensation represents and tries to do. The chorus calling for power to Parliament to amend the basic structure of the Constitution creates a foreboding feeling that an attempt could be made to tinker with what lends the Constitution its distinctness. When the Prime Minister has described the Constitution as the 'only holy book', why not abide by it? The President has described 'diversity' as the defining feature of our country, but the right which dominates politics is hostile to India's cultural pluralism. 'Unity in diversity' is what holds India together.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

There is a market

It is heartening that the 46th edition of the Chennai Book Fair drew a record footfall and had good sales (Chennai, January 23). This reiterates the fact that the physical market for books will continue to grow despite the invasion of e-books. The feel of paper, its fragrance, an unmatched and less worrisome ability to share a paper book, its images and illustrations and flexibility in annotating are what make a printed book much sought after than an e-book.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Bad behaviour

The report (Chennai, January 25) about a Minister in Tamil Nadu hurling a clod at a worker for not being provided with a chair on time, when he was out on an inspection, was shocking to read. Perhaps the Chief Minister needs to enlighten his Ministers on how in the past, leaders and Ministers were known to be humble. Many of our Ministers need a course in etiquette.

Mani Natarajan,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The report titled "Pakistan Prime Minister to be invited for SCO summit" (January 26, 2023) erroneously gave the year of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's last visit to India as 2021. It should have been 2022.

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Is there a level playing field for Indian sportswomen?

PARLEY

Sharda Ugra

is a sports journalist with more than three decades of experience across newsrooms at The Hindu, Mid-Day, India Today and ESPNcricinfo

Deepthi Bopaiah

is CEO of GoSports Foundation, a non-profit working towards the development of some of India's best Olympic and Paralympic talents

Over a week ago, India's top wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, and World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat, staged a protest against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accusing him and coaches of the Federation of sexual harassment. Singh was asked to step aside, and the Union Sports Ministry constituted a five-member oversight committee to investigate the charges. The committee, led by the celebrated boxer M.C. Mary Kom, has also been tasked with managing the day-to-day affairs of the Federation until the submission of its report. The controversy has yet again brought into focus the many problems in Indian sports governance. Questions have been raised over the conduct of the newly elected Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Athletes' Commission, and the redressal mechanisms in place. Considering the challenges, is there a level playing field for Indian sportswomen? Sharda Ugra and Deepthi Bopaiah discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **N. Sudarshan**. Edited excerpts:

How big is the pushback by the wrestlers?

Sharda Ugra: It is a revolutionary act. In the last decade and a half, there have been sporadic complaints. But in this age of television and social media, we have seen senior athletes saying, 'We're standing up for our community as a whole.' Very rarely will an athlete of Vinesh or Sakshi or Bajrang's capabilities and achievements speak out and say, 'We will not leave until the president of the Federation goes.' It's a reflection of how Indian sport has changed and [how] a lot of it has stayed the same.

Deepthi Bopaiah: I agree. Each one of them understands the responsibility of being a role model. And if you don't be the change you want to see, you're not going to see that [change] happening. So many different entities have come forward to professionalise Indian sport; we've made baby steps towards it. But something like this makes you sit back and think, 'Aren't there enough systems and processes?' So, from an athlete's side, it's brave and fantastic; you are walking the talk. But from the administration side, it makes you think, 'Why are they doing that?'

The P.T. Usha-led IOA and the Athletes' Commission dithered in their initial responses. In an era where athlete-driven governance is championed, could they have done better?

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and others during their protest against the Wrestling Federation of India, in New Delhi. PTI

SU: Like Deepthi said, 'Are you walking the talk as an athlete who's in an official position?' For both P.T. Usha and Mary Kom, it took more than 24 hours to respond. The Athletes' Commission, which is supposed to be the voice of the athletes, had nothing to say. [Only] Shiva Keshavan put out a tweet. Ten athletes were unanimously elected [to the Commission]. You could ask, 'To do what? Are they just placeholders?' Now Mary Kom has been made in charge, but we've not seen any decisive action or comment on a very troublesome issue, which I'm sure she herself is very familiar with.

DB: I'll answer this in two parts. I feel these are very early days for P.T. Usha and the Athletes' Commission. But I agree with Sharda that you need some sort of an acknowledgement when such a brave step is taken. The second part is, when redressal committees were being set up in corporate India, a lot of it was about creating awareness about the roles people occupied: Why is a particular person on a committee? Can I reach out? We still need to replicate these in Indian sports. On this issue, the turnaround time was much quicker from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Sports Ministry compared to earlier times, which is good. But the part where I still have concern is, 'How do you report? Who's going to address it and what happens after that?'

There is more awareness and discussion about the seriousness of sexual assault crimes. But is the environment more conducive today to report complaints?

DB: It depends on which section of women are doing it, and what is the support system behind them. Today, [there is] general awareness on prevention of sexual harassment, with the #MeToo movement. But in sport, these discussions are not happening enough. It's seen in smaller groups and workshops, like we do it at our foundation. While women feel more confident and more courageous in bringing up the issue, they still form a very small percentage.

> I have seen changes in the last few years that give me hope. It's great to see athletes stand up for themselves. The ball is now in the court of the administrators.
> **DEEPTHI BOPAIAH**

SU: Female athletes, like women in the country, are more confident about speaking out. If they come from a slightly urban set-up, they are able to talk openly about it. The fact that these wrestlers have come out and they come from a sort of rural background will give confidence to a lot of other athletes. Recently, the case of the cyclist who had complained about the coach was a great example of SAI responding quickly. The Cycling Federation said, 'He's been here for 24 years and we've had no complaints.' That doesn't mean he didn't do anything. So, these 24 years show you the sort of change that has happened.

That these athletes staged a protest indicates the massive imbalance in power and a lack of faith in the system. How do we correct it?

SU: This is a classic example of the benevolence of power stepping in. Power here is the Sports Ministry, rather than there being systems and structures in place. The day-to-day operations of a majority of sports federations are run not by a professional office, but by the office of whoever is the president or secretary. That is why when there is any problem, you go straight to the top. This time, it was the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, and then the Sports Minister. In a proper structure, you would have gone to the Athletes' Commission and then to the IOA. This is why the athletes want the Wrestling Federation of India to be restructured, because the ladder that exists there has no rungs in it.

Is there any effort to sensitise those in power to the problems faced by athletes?

DB: It's a combination of things. There is a lot of attention on sexual harassment. But in terms of the abuse of power, there's psychological abuse, neglect, not sending entries to competitions, etc. There are also [imbalances] in terms of socio-economic status and athletic ability. That's why there is an attempt to formalise the National Sports Code. But there are also people who don't want it to happen because the sense of power goes away. And the athlete is left hanging.

Should we then expand the debate and go beyond reporting on sexual and mental harassment? Such as the lack of equal opportunities to compete, fewer stadiums with women-centric infrastructure?

SU: You can handle all these things together, like Deepthi was saying. There is an athlete-centric model of governance that India is having a problem coming to terms with. Enough competitions to take part in, better stadiums, better facilities... these are all reasonable expectations. But we also don't know how many young boys are being harassed, mentally and psychologically. You would sense that women athletes will be going through a significant degree more. If you get the coach-athlete and the official-coach-athlete equations evened out and made respectful, it would make for an enormous beginning.

DB: The word to take away is respect. Our athletes are special. All this pride that we feel is because of their ability. Yes, others work with them, but without the athlete, there is nothing. You need to give them an environment to thrive in, like the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence or the JSW setup in Ballari. We're not giving athletes enough basic infrastructure and basic respect, but we expect medals every four years. The wrestling issue has shaken up the system. It is saying, 'Get it done now.'

How far are we from an ideal sports governance model?

SU: A good distance away. Starting out by accepting that would be great. And also not look at everything from a medal-centric view. Some of our laws are excellent, but are they being implemented? Of our federations, 85-90% are symbols of bad governance. We can be happy if it comes down to 40-50%.

DB: This is unfortunately true. But I feel that private foundations and SAI are all working together. There is some accountability. But when you're talking about a safe environment to thrive in, there are many more aspects. Some say, 'Let's get the medals and other things can be ignored.' That approach is not appropriate. But I have seen changes in the last few years that give me hope. It's great to see athletes stand up for themselves. Having the courage to say that this is not okay and younger athletes should not face similar challenges is amazing. The ball is now in the court of the administrators.

NOTEBOOK

The blurred lines between gaming and gambling

Finding the appropriate vocabulary to describe conflicting areas of interest can be tricky for a reporter

Aroon Deep
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Being careful with language is a part of the job description for two professions in particular: law and journalism. And when the interests of these two professions – and the appropriate vocabulary to describe those interests – are in conflict, things get tricky.

Recently, at least three people from an industry called me to share information about their advocacy efforts with the government. This industry represents a range of online apps or platforms where users can risk their money to win or, as is the case often, lose what they put in. The games include casino staples such as poker and rummy. These are called online gambling apps in parts of the world.

While the Constitution gives States the power to regulate "betting and gambling," platforms have repeatedly and successfully made the case that games such as rummy and poker are 'games of skill' and therefore don't fall into either category.

It is true that platforms carry financial risks, which they themselves have disclosed. And skilful players too can miscalculate and lose huge amounts of money. Yet, calling these apps 'online gambling' spells trouble. This is because courts have held that playing games such as poker and rummy requires and rewards application of mind and doesn't constitute gambling. Who are journalists, then, to say otherwise? The industry prefers the term 'real money gaming' or RMG.

Today, States and journalists are scrutinising this industry. A spate of suicides has highlighted the financial and other harms that addiction to such games can cause. Tamil Nadu has attempted to define and restrict these platforms by enacting a law to restrict 'online gaming.' This is a far wider category than even the RMG term adopted by the industry and risks conflating video games that entail different risks, and mostly without staking money, with speculatory apps which can dictate personal fortunes. The first effort at prohibition, under the AIADMK-led administration, was struck down by the Madras High Court. The DMK-led government asked Retired Justice K. Chandru to lead a committee to examine the issue last year. The committee's report included insights from schoolteachers, which suggested that it was not just RMG apps that were the government's focus.

Last August, the Home Department held a consultation. I asked whether stakeholder submissions could be disclosed in public interest. But the submissions were not made public, despite many Right to Information requests seeking copies.

When the Union government put out a draft of a far more liberal approach of regulating this industry, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology told reporters that "any game that allows or permits wagering on its outcome is effectively a no-go area." But the draft he unveiled simply spelt out safeguards for such platforms. And the draft called them 'online gaming providers', as did an amendment to the Allocation of Business Rules made shortly beforehand to allow the IT Ministry to regulate this space.

The obfuscation and the blurred lines ultimately end up confusing readers. So, what do we do? To lump in real money games with video games is a journalistically fraught exercise. In my writing, I have used phrases like "games that allow players to stake real money" and "wagering platforms" when referring to games such as rummy and poker. It's not as unambiguous as "online gambling," but it gets the message across.

As the online gaming amendment approaches notification, and amendments to it to include other forms of non-wagering video games get formulated, it will be more important to report on what exactly the real money gaming industry is, and what it is not. That is a prerogative for policy clarity as well as a necessity for readers, so that they understand concerns and rulemaking around RMGs.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

A postcard from the Kashmir Valley

A boy walks on a snow-covered path on the outskirts of Srinagar. Kashmir is currently in the grip of 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day harshest weather period when chances of snowfall are maximum. Chillai Kalan begins on December 21 and ends on January 30. NISSAR AHMAD

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 27, 1973

Over one million watch Republic Day parade

New Delhi, Jan. 26: More than one million people thronged on either side of the gaily bedecked Rajpath to witness the 24th Republic Day's parade in this silver jubilee year of India's independence. The two hours 10 minutes spectacle of the colourful extravaganza portraying India's military might, the cultural pageant and pages from history highlighting the struggle for freedom from colonial rule were climaxed by a brilliant fly-past by the Indian Air Force in which 78 aircraft, fighters, bombers, transport planes and helicopters participated. The President, Mr. V.V. Giri, took the salute at the saluting base placed midway on Rajpath and the special invitees to this year's parade included the wife of the President of Peru, Madame Consuelo Gonzales Valesco, Soviet Union's first woman cosmonaut Madame Valentina Tereshkova and Swedish Minister Mrs. Alva Myrdal.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 27, 1923

High Commissioner for India

Delhi, Jan. 26: A communique says: It is notified for general information that the Governor-General-in-Council with the approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India has appointed Mr. D.M. Dalad, C.I.E., Member of the Council of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India to be the High Commissioner for India in the U.K.

From Page One

India displays women power, indigenous arms

A combined band and marching contingent from Egypt, with 144 soldiers of the Egyptian Army and led by Colonel Mahmoud Mohamed Abdel Fattah El Kharasawy, was part of the parade.

The parade was led by Parade Commander Lieutenant-General Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area, followed by the Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra awardees.

In a display of women's empowerment, the marching contingents of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy were led by women officers for the first time. While Lt. Commander Disha Amrith led the Navy's 144 sailors, Squadron Leader Sindhu Reddy headed 144 air warriors and four officers of the IAF. In another first, the Navy's contingent also included three women and six men Agniveers. The Central Reserve Police Force also presented an all-woman marching contingent in the parade, led by Assistant Commandant Poonam Gupta, while the Delhi Police had an all-women pipe band comprising 35 women constables. The marching contingent was led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Shweta K. Sugathan.

The theme of nari shakti or women power carried beyond the armed forces contingents into the parade's cultural tableaux as well. Tripura's tableau focused on the active role of its women in creating sustainable livelihoods through tourism and organic farming, while Kerala presented folk traditions of women's empowerment.

One of the most popular parts of the parade every year, the fly past was not clearly visible due to the cloudy weather, leaving the audience a bit disappointed at the end. Some of the formations, as narrated by the commentators, were Netra by four Rafale fighter jets and Trishul by three Sukhoi-30 Mki. Creating a diamond shape in the blurry skies were the helicopters of the Indian Army Aviation Corps. The Rudra formation consisted of two Dhruv helicopters and two Rudra helicopters.

EPFO's plan to review cases sparks concern

Their pension would now be revised based on the salary ceiling of ₹5,000 or ₹6,500, it said in the circular, issued to all the regional offices.

In support of its move, the EPFO cited certain paragraphs of the Supreme Court's judgment of November 2022.

Paragraph 11(3) dealt with the matter of maximum pensionable salary. It also talked of an arrangement for employees and employers to give a joint option for allowing to the Pension Fund the remittance of a proportionate portion of the employers' contribution on wages higher than the statutory ceiling The second feature of the paragraph was removed through an amendment to the Pension Scheme, effective September 1, 2014.

Alleging "high-handedness" of the EPFO in issuing such a circular, Parveen Kohli, activist for pensioners' rights, said he feared that the latest move would affect thousands of pensioners. "The circular is by distorting the facts and suppressing the details. In the *R.C. Gupta* case, the Supreme Court, in October 2016, upheld the EPS-95. Consequently, the pension of 24,672 persons was revised. There are other pensioners who got favourable orders from various courts subsequently. All these persons are facing the prospects of recovery by the EPFO, if one is to go by the latest circular," Mr. Kohli said.

The EPFO's circular said that before revising any pension entitlement, an advance notice should be issued to the pensioner so that he or she had an opportunity to prove that he or she had availed himself or herself of the option under paragraph 11(3) of the EPS before his or her retirement prior to September 1, 2014.

"Further, any recovery which may arise after such revision should be done in a staggered and persuasive manner. The RPFC [Regional Provident Fund Commissioner]-I/ officer in charge of the region will be the competent authority to redetermine the pension entitlement and initiate recovery, if any," the circular said.

It added that the Supreme Court's direction in the *R.C. Gupta* case pertained to such employees who had contributed on higher wages under paragraph 26(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 [joint consent to be provided by employer-employee for permitting contribution on the employee's higher pay] and had further exercised their option under 11(3) of the EPS-1995 prior to their retirement.

Hindenburg welcomes Adani's legal 'threat'

He stressed that it was meant to "sabotage the FPO (Follow-on Public Offering) from Adani Enterprises". "The maliciously mischievous, unresearched report published by Hindenburg Research on 24 Jan 2023 has adversely affected the Adani Group, our shareholders and investors. The volatility in Indian stock markets created by the report is of great concern and has led to unwanted anguish for Indian citizens."

The four-paragraph statement issued by the Gautam Adani-led conglomerate, however, remained silent on the allegations and questions raised by the U.S. short-seller, calling its report outrightly "baseless."

On its part, Hindenburg said the Adani Group was resorting to bluster and threats instead of responding to the pointed questions it raised in the report.

Evacuees from 'sinking' town await prefabs

'NTPC, go back' slogans reverberate in Joshimath as angry residents stage protest on Republic Day, they demand the shutdown of the corporation's power project; team constituted to determine the reason for land subsidence in the Uttarakhand town submits its preliminary report

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Over three weeks after the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was ordered to construct 2,000 temporary, pre-fabricated houses to rehabilitate the evacuated residents of Joshimath, the Himalayan pilgrim town which has been sinking, the power corporation has yet to take any action, a senior government official told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

In an order issued on January 5, the Chamoli district administration had directed a halt on all construction activity on the NTPC's power project and the Border Roads Organisation's Helang-Marwari bypass road, given the concerns that the two projects were worsening the land subsidence or sinking process. Apart from stopping the ropeway operations, the administration had also asked both the NTPC and the Hindustan Construction Company to prepare 2,000 pre-fabricated homes for the rehabilitation of residents.

"We haven't received any information from either NTPC or HCC about the temporary huts. The company hasn't responded to any of our official communication," said the senior official, who did not wish to be named.

On Thursday, slogans of "NTPC, go back" reverberated in Joshimath town, as hundreds of residents holding the tricolour staged a Republic Day demonstration at the local administration's office.

The protesters – including men, women and children – demanded an immediate closure of the power project owned by the company.

"This company has destroyed our homes, our land and is not even ready to participate in any kind of rehabilitation process. We had demanded that the government must ask the NTPC to pay for the entire damage that has been done to Joshimath but the State is only busy giving clean chit to NTPC," said Atul Sati, convener of the Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, in his public address at Thursday's protest.

Voicing dissent: Residents of Joshimath take out a rally on Republic Day, in Chamoli district. PTI

The residents of Joshimath have long believed that it was reckless and unplanned blasting done by NTPC that had caused the town to sink.

"This company has created huge infrastructure for its own officials. They are still working at the site. All government is doing is rehabilitating us in badly managed shelter homes. Some money and displacement in the name of rehabilitation will not serve the purpose. Justice to Joshimath can only be served when NTPC will be held accountable for this disaster," said Sandeep Singh, a protestor.

Meanwhile, the multi-institutional team constituted to determine the reason for the sinking of the town has submitted its preliminary report to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

"The eight Central technical and scientific institutions surveying Joshimath town to ascertain reasons for the current situation have submitted their preliminary reports to the NDMA," said Uttarkhand Disaster Management Secretary Ranjit Sinha.

The multi-institutional team consists of experts from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, the Central Building Research Institute, the National Geophysical Research Institute, the Central Ground Water Board, the Geological Survey of India and the National Institute of Hydrology.

Though no new structures have been found damaged in the town over the past 48 hours, the water discharge from the breached aquifer at JPVL Colony has increased once again due to recent rain and snowfall. The discharge, which had gone down to 100 litres per minute by the middle of January, has surged again, hitting a speed of 181 litres per minute on Thursday.

The NTPC did not respond to the queries from *The Hindu* on the order and its implementation.

Read our explainer | Why is the land sinking in Joshimath? **bit.ly/3wtklUd**

India and Egypt reiterate support for Non-Aligned Movement

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

They expressed a desire for exchange of technology between their defence industries

India and Egypt on Thursday reiterated support for the Non-Aligned Movement. A joint statement issued after the bilateral engagements for President Abdel Fateh el-Sisi, who was the chief guest at the Republic Day parade here, said both countries expressed desire for exchange of technology between their defence industries.

"The two countries reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, the principles of the United Nations Charter, international law, the founding values of the Non-Aligned Movement, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states," the statement said.

Mr. Sisi arrived here on January 24 and held restricted and delegation-level talks at Hyderabad House on Wednesday, where he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed bilateral diplomatic relations between India and Egypt. The two countries are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

India and Egypt agreed to "initiate new engagements to intensify military-to-military engagements" and planned more joint exercises between the armed forces of the two countries.

The ties have been on an upswing in the recent past and both delegations supported reform of the UN Security Council, where Egypt was a non-permanent member during 2016-17 and India had a similar stint during 2021-22.

Egypt's relation with India was also helped by its display of pragmatism especially on the backdrop of the Nupur Sharma controversy of 2022 when Cairo maintained silence while certain Gulf countries were vocal in criticising India.

The two governments agreed to fight terrorism in all forms, "including cross-border terrorism" and intensify consultation between their respective National Security Councils.

"Prime Minister Modi and President el-Sisi expressed concern over the spread of terrorism across the world and agreed that it poses one of the most serious security threats to humanity. Both leaders condemned the use of terrorism as a foreign policy tool," read the statement.

Many first-timers in Cong. candidate list for Meghalaya polls

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Congress on Wednesday announced a 'youthful' list of candidates for the Meghalaya Assembly election scheduled to be held on February 27.

More than 20 candidates figuring in the first list of 55 candidates are first-timers and 10, including former Minister Deborah C. Marak, are women.

The party is expected to name the candidates for the remaining five seats later.

According to the candidate list, Meghalaya State Congress president Vincent H. Pala would contest from the Sutnga Saipung Assembly constituency. A former Union Minister, he represents the Shillong constituency in the Lok Sabha.

The list has a total of 11 former MLAs. They include Saleng A. Sangma, who resigned as the Nationalist Congress Party legislator and joined the Congress on January 23 and former Minister Sayeedullah Nongrum.

Former policeman-turned-extremist Champion R. Sangma is also among the candidates.

Phase 1 of Bihar caste-based survey completed, form for next stage still being finalised

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Work in progress: Enumerators receiving information from Patna residents during the first phase of the Bihar caste-based survey. PTI

Halfway through the much-anticipated caste-based survey (CBS) currently under way in Bihar, the form for its next and most crucial phase, when information on people's caste and socio-economic status will be collected, is still being finalised, officials confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The CBS, which began on January 7, is being carried out in two stages. The first phase was a household counting exercise, which has now been completed with district administrations expected to send in their final reports by the end of January.

During the second stage, which is set to begin from April 1, information on people's caste and their socio-economic conditions will be collected. However, the form for the purpose has not been finalised, senior officials said.

An official of the General Administration Department (GAD), the nodal department for the survey, said, "There is a drop-down box, which will have a list of about 200-300 castes and the enumerators will have to just choose from one of them after collecting the information from the concerned citizen. Because of this we will be able to avoid multiplicity of the number of castes due to variations in spelling."

Additional layer

While the second stage will require the head of each family to vouch for the information on their caste they have provided, each enumerator will also be accompanied by an assistant – who will in most cases be the local Anganwadi worker or social worker aware of caste locations of village residents. "This is an additional layer of confirmation for us," an official explained.

Further, the second phase is expected to collect "unprecedentedly" detailed information such as landholding, property ownership, education, employment, mobile and internet usage and income, among other things, sources said, adding the complete form was "still being finalised" as some columns "are still being added and deleted".

Officials added that the form will be ready by the last week of February, just in time for enumerators to begin their "elaborate training programme" on how to hit the ground running with it.

Statisticians have began expressing concerns about when the form for the second stage will be finalised.

"We have not yet received any news of the form," a senior official in the Saharsa said, while another official in Vaishali district added that they will need time to go through the form and familiarise themselves with it once it arrives.

'China has exploited tribal alienation along India-Myanmar border'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

China has "exploited" the sense of alienation and insecurity among tribal communities along the India-Myanmar border – who have been protesting against the fencing being undertaken along the border – in order to "cause insurgency and instability" in northeast India, according to a research paper.

The paper was written by a police officer and submitted at a conference last week. It added that insurgents sourced their arms from China and brought them into India through Myanmar.

Second paper

Another paper, also presented at the annual All India Conference of Directors-General and Inspectors-General of Police, cited intelligence inputs to claim that there was a "historical link" between China and the northeastern insurgents.

India shares a 1,643-km long border with Myanmar that passes through four States: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Given the historical and cultural linkages between people on both sides, the border is relatively porous, and there is a free movement regime in place under which locals can move up to 16 km on either side of the border.

The first paper stated that efforts taken by both India and Myanmar to fence the border have been protested by tribal communities on both sides, who fear that the demarcation would lead to them losing their land and forest access to the other side.

Historical link

The second paper cited above said, "It is suggested based on intelligence inputs, that there exists a historical link between the northeast insurgents and China. The arms acquired from China are smuggled through Thailand, Bangladesh and Sino-Myanmar borders into the northeastern States."

Therefore, in addition to the fencing strategy, the first paper suggested that India – with more than 15,000 km of borders coupled with a hostile neighbourhood – has to follow a multi-modal approach to mitigate the challenges of unfenced borders.

Arguing that politics in the northeastern States were so unpredictable, a third paper said, "If we have to take on China more successfully, then we have to engage the people in northeast and sort out the issues."

Panel to check smuggling of drugs via sea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has set up a committee with senior representatives of multiple probe agencies to review the checking mechanisms at all ports and plug the loopholes to prevent smuggling of drugs primarily via maritime routes.

"There has been a steep rise in the smuggling of drugs through sea routes in the past few years, particularly in the guise of legitimate cargo. Therefore, close coordination between the agencies is mandatory at every level," said a senior official.

Police release detained Jamia students

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday released 12 of the 13 students of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) detained a day earlier. A female JMI student detainee was released on Wednesday evening, the police said. The students were detained before a screening of the *BBC* documentary *India: The Modi Question* at the university on Wednesday.

Strong and steady down Kartavya Path

- IAF displays might with manoeuvres by Rafale jets and Su-30 MKI fighters
- Naval plane and Army helicopters complete the flight plan
- Motorcycle stunts, bands, marching contingents keep crowd entertained
- Seating capacity reduced to about 45,000 with VIP invitations cut

Samridhi Tewari
Mehul Malpani
NEW DELHI

As India woke up to celebrate its 74th Republic Day, thousands turned up on the newly renovated and renamed Kartavya Path in New Delhi on a cold and cloudy winter morning to witness the Republic Day parade on Thursday.

The parade that always has something for everyone did not disappoint this year's gathering, a mix of men and women, senior citizens and children, students and working professionals, and vendors and daily wagers.

While the parade offered a range of attractions, including motorcycle stunts, various bands and marching contingents, tableaux, and cultural performance, for most visitors, it was the experience of witnessing the grand event live that was memorable.

Vashisth Singh, 90, a retired assistant engineer from Ranchi, who had seen the parade on TV for years, said it felt "surreal" to experience it sitting at Kartavya Path for the first time.

"I've always wanted to experience this, there are so many memories attached to the Republic Day parade," he said.

The India story: (clockwise from left) Soft power, military might and women's leadership were on display as President Droupadi Murmu welcomed Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at the Republic Day function on Kartavya Path; Lt. Cdr. Disha Amrith leading the Naval contingent; women personnel make up the camel-mounted BSF contingent; proud CRPF women; and a gig in the sky with the indigenous NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control System and a Rafale. PTI, R.V. MOORTHY

Cloud cover

Though the parade started at 10.30 a.m., people started coming in even before first light as they wanted to grab the best seats. One particular event they were excited about was the fly past by 45 Indian Air Force aircraft, one from the Indian Navy, and four helicopters of the Indian Army.

However, the crowd was left disappointed as they could not witness the various manoeuvres in the sky above Kartavya Path by the Rafale, MiG-29 and Su-30 MKI fighters.

A resident of Ghaziabad, Vibha, 36, was excited to see the Rafale fighter jets. "We've only heard about it in the news. My children were really excited about seeing the fighter jets, however due to the weather conditions we couldn't," she said. Two students of Rashtriya Military College in Dehradun, Teluri Srujan, 16, and Sunand Kumar, 17, both residents of Andhra Pradesh, said that the marching contingents were the main attraction for them.

Heavy security

In view of "security threats," more than 7,000 police personnel and paramilitary forces including Delhi Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guard (NSG), and Military Police were deployed at various points.

Special Protection Group (SPG) commandoes, responsible for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security, were also keeping a vigil across the venue.

Snipers were stationed at various temporary control centres. With a seven-layer security cover, thorough frisking was carried out at each point. Various common articles, including pens, water bottles, umbrellas, and coins, were part of the banned-items list.

Entry was only permitted based on QR codes as all invitations and passes were moved online for the first time. Seating capacity was also reduced from more than 1 lakh to about 45,000 due to reorganisation of seating arrangements and a massive cut in the VIP invitations.

India making big contribution to international stability, says Putin

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Russia on Thursday acknowledged India's contribution to ensure "stability and security" in the current world scenario. On the occasion of the Republic Day festivities here, Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a congratulatory message to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sought increased cooperation between the two countries.

"India's achievements in the economic, social, scientific, technological and other spheres are widely known. Your country is making a substantial contribution to ensuring international stability and security and to addressing vital issues on the regional and global agenda," Mr. Putin said in his message.

Mulayam deserves the Bharat Ratna: SP leaders

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Union government, by conferring the Padma Vibhushan – the second highest civilian award – on Mulayam Singh, has made a mockery of the works and contributions of the leader, Samajwadi Party members claimed on Thursday.

The SP founder should have been awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour in India, they claimed.

'Mockery of work'

"By giving Padma Vibhushan posthumously to Netaji Mulayam Singh Yadav, the Government of India made a mockery of the late leader's work, stature and contributions to the nation. If they want to honour Netaji (Mulayam Singh), he should be conferred Bharat Ratna," wrote senior SP leader and Member of Legislative Council (MLC) Swami Prasad Maurya on Twitter.

Another SP member, I.P. Singh also expressed his displeasure, adding that only the Bharat Ratna is suitable for the late leader.

"Apart from the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour, no other honour befits the late Mulayam Singh Yadav, the son the soil. An announcement should be made without any delay to give Bharat Ratna to our respected Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav)," Mr. Singh posted on Twitter.

Murmurs in Sangh over high honour for Mulayam Singh

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The Padma awards announced on Wednesday underlined, once again, the Modi government's consistent trend of choosing political leaders ideologically opposed to the BJP in the Republic Day honours, be it Bharat Ratna for former President Pranab Mukherjee or Padma Bhushan for former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. But Padma Vibhushan for Mulayam Singh this year seems to have created discomfort among some in the ideological spectrum of the BJP.

As soon as the socialist leader's name was announced, social media supporters of the government and the BJP expressed displeasure, saying Mulayam, as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, ordered police firing on *Kar Sevaks* in the aftermath of the Ram Rath Yatra in Ayodhya on November 2, 1990.

The firing led to the death of many *Kar Sevaks*, with official reports putting the number at 16, which is disputed by those involved in the movement.

The family members of Ram Kumar Kothari and Sharad Kumar, known as the "Kothari brothers" who were killed in the firing, were among the 175 people invited for the

Mulayam Singh

bhoomi poojan of the under-construction Ram Temple in Ayodhya in 2020.

However, Mulayam was also instrumental in bailing out the BJP at key junctures, as when then Congress president Sonia Gandhi in 1999 tried to form a government and said the famous phrase "we have 272" (the majority number in Parliament) only to have him switch sides, or in 2002, when he offered support to the National Democratic Alliance's Presidential candidate, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

It is perhaps this history between the two parties, BJP and Samajwadi Party, as also the fact that the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi commands the support of several communities which earlier were under the Mandal umbrella, especially in Uttar Pradesh, that led to the choice of Mulayam.

Mr. Modi, in his condolence message when Mulayam passed away, said he was a "key soldier" for democracy during the Emergency, and as Defence Minister, he worked for a stronger India.

In telegraphing Bharat Jodo Yatra lore, medium is the message for Congress

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

As the Bharat Jodo Yatra travelled from Kanniyakumari to Srinagar, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi addressed 13 press conferences, with the final one expected on Sunday. Yet, Mr. Gandhi, who is the the face of the yatra, has steadfastly refused to entertain any request for a one-on-one interview with any mainstream media house. Instead, he has chosen to interact with influencers and journalists who are popular on social media platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter.

"They [mainstream media] don't want to listen. It is as if they know everything. They have already taken a decision as to what they need to do and what they don't need. So, what's the point of talking to them. But if someone has an open mind, then one can talk to them," Mr. Gandhi told a group of journalists who run independent YouTube channels when he met them three weeks ago.

But beyond the Congress leader's reluctance to give interviews to mainstream journalists, the focus on YouTubers also reflects a change in the party's communication strategy to reach out to younger age groups and youth. Supriya Shrinate, who heads the social media department, claimed that the party had been "forced" to go big on social media. "As a large section of the media blacked out the Bharat Jodo Yatra because of its impact, we had to focus on social media," she told *The Hindu*.

Long march: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Ramban in J&K on Wednesday. NISSAR AHMAD

Video snippets

In addition to curating the memorable moments and interactions of Mr. Gandhi for the Bharat Jodo Yatra-specific Twitter handle and app, her team also regularly makes video snippets of the yatra to be shared and retweeted by senior party leaders, MPs and Chief Ministers of the Congress-ruled States.

Office-bearers of frontal organisations such as the Indian Youth Congress, the Mahila Congress, the National Students Union of India and the Seva Dal also get regular reminders to retweet and share the videos.

The party has also contracted Teen Bandar, a Mumbai-based firm, to amplify the Bharat Jodo Yatra's social media presence across digital platforms.

There is a carefully crafted strategy to showcase the different aspects of Mr. Gandhi and not just him as a politician, such as how he learnt to make *chole bhature* from a retired soldier, Naik Deepchand, in Haryana or how he discussed automobiles with popular YouTuber, Bombay Journey.

The number of subscribers to Mr. Gandhi's YouTube channel has crossed 1.25 million. His follower count on Instagram has jumped to 2.7 million from 1.8 million before the start of the yatra. On Facebook, the follower count is 6.3 million, compared with 5 million before the yatra. "In just a span of 140 days, there has been a 50% increase in followers on Instagram and a 26% increase on Facebook," said an All India Congress Committee functionary.

INBRIEF

Protecting Constitution is true symbol of patriotism: Yechury

The true "symbol of patriotism" is to protect the values of equality – economic, social and political – ingrained in our Constitution, CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury said in a video address on the occasion of 74th Republic Day. The Constitution also guaranteed justice for all, he said. Stating that these fundamental values were facing threat today, he said: "Today, we must all rise to defend our Constitution."

We must respect and protect everyone's freedom: RSS chief

Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said every individual is free in this country and that respecting and protecting each other's freedom is what makes us great as Indians. At a Republic Day event in Jaipur, he said B.R. Ambedkar used to say that India became a slave due to infighting and not because of the efficiency of the enemies. "If we want freedom and equality to flourish, there is no other way than strengthening brotherhood," he said.

JD(U) president not to attend concluding event of Yatra

Janata Dal (United) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh on Thursday expressed his inability to attend the concluding event of the Bharat Jodo Yatra to be held at Srinagar. Although Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had invited Mr. Singh, the JD(U) president said that he needed to be present at the launching of the party's election campaign at Wokha in Nagaland, the same day.

‘India’s timely support ensured Sri Lanka’s economic survival’

High Commissioner of the island nation says India stepped in during the crisis and helped the country with credit lines, currency swaps and loans, apart from advocating for international support; investment, tourism and trade are the three areas where the big neighbour could aid the country in its recovery; and Jaishankar’s visit to Colombo last week has opened a new chapter in ties

INTERVIEW

Milinda Moragoda

Suhasini Haidar

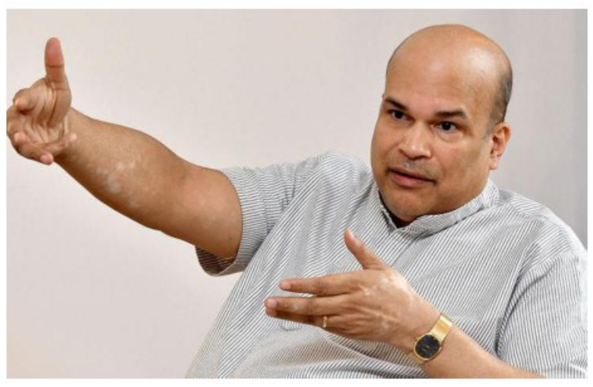
India’s support to Sri Lanka during its economic crisis, which External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar underlined during his visit to Colombo last week, has opened a new chapter in ties between the neighbours, says Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Milinda Moragoda, in an interaction. Edited excerpts:

Did EAM Jaishankar’s visit to Colombo fulfil the Sri Lankan government’s expectations for help with economic crisis?

I think from our side, yes, very much so. It was the first visit since the new President [Ranil Wickremesinghe] was sworn in last year, and Mr. Jaishankar carried a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inviting him to India soon. I think it needs to be re-emphasised that Sri Lanka’s economic survival today is due to the support provided by India. India’s support came when nobody else would step in. We have now gone to the IMF [International Monetary Fund] for a loan of around $2.9 billion that will be disbursed over several years with many conditions.

Whereas in comparison, India actually provided us with $3.9 billion, supporting us with credit lines, currency swaps and helping with our loans. Secondly, India took the lead in advocating for international support. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman herself spoke with IMF and World Bank. And then India wrote to the IMF last week, just before Mr. Jaishankar’s visit, giving assurances on debt restructuring that were much needed. India has been the first to do so, before China, before even the Paris Club. Of course, once the process is done, we need to start looking at economic recovery, and will need India’s support there as well.

What are the areas of recovery where India can help immediately?



I think there are three key areas – investment, tourism and trade. In investment, we will need assistance in infrastructure, especially for energy and in particular, renewable energy sector. Sri Lanka has immense potential of nearly 30,000 megawatts in wind energy. The only way we can bring in investment to harness that is if we can be part of an electricity grid with India as our requirements alone will not be enough to bring large-scale foreign investment.

India was the largest tourism market for Sri Lanka before COVID-19, and I hope we can expand that. I’ve been also talking to aviation companies here to see how Colombo airport can become a hub.

Finally, there is trade, and even as we negotiate upgrading our FTA [free-trade agreement] with India, we can look for opportunities to increase market access and to generate rupee revenues like in the apparel sector, and to work out a rupee trade arrangement.

Do you foresee Sri Lanka joining a South Asia renewable power grid with India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal?

That’s the way the world is working now, to share renewable energy regionally. Let’s remember, every crisis is an opportunity. And I think in the power sector, it’s very much an opportunity because our power generation and distribution or transmission are both inefficient, and we need to make it more competitive. So the short answer to your question is, yes. In the past, there were internal lobbies that wanted to protect Sri Lanka from becoming too dependent on external sources of energy. But today, the situation is reversed. Mr. Jaishankar also made it clear that India will go ahead with plans for the energy terminal projects in Trincomalee.

Have India-Sri Lanka ties recovered from the troubles of last year, over the docking of the Chinese vessel? Going forward how would you balance ties with India and China?

We value our separate identity and we value our independence, but when it comes to security issues, India’s security is our security, I think our leaders have also stated this. The big lesson is that we must keep channels open, keep talking and that’s how to work out all such problems that come up in the future. Yes, the [Chinese] ship was a blip on the screen, but despite that, we continued to talk, and India did continue to support Sri Lanka and we have been able to establish a new level of trust. In that sense, Mr. Jaishankar’s visit last week has opened a new chapter for India-Sri Lanka ties.

INBRIEF

Surprised at Visva-Bharati officials’ mindset: Amartya

Replying to the accusations of land grab made against him by the Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan in West Bengal, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Thursday said he was surprised at the mindset of the authorities of the university. He also told journalists at his residence that those engaged in academics should find out if justice or injustice was being done. A letter signed by the Deputy Registrar of the university had alleged that Professor Sen’s residence had been built on an area, which covered extra 13 decimals of land. Professor Sen had called the contents of the letter “frivolous”, and said he was “very much irritated” by the developments.

India slams vandalisation of 3 Hindu temples in Australia

India on Thursday strongly condemned the recent vandalisation of three Hindu temples in Australia and the graffiti on them, which included the glorification of ‘anti-India terrorists’. Earlier this month, the Swaminarayan temple in Melbourne, the Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple in Victoria and the ISKCON temple in Melbourne were defaced by ‘anti-social elements’, with anti-India graffiti. “The frequency and impunity with which the vandals appear to be operating are alarming, as are the graffiti which include the glorification of anti-Indian terrorists,” the Indian High Commission in Canberra said in a statement. The Australian High Commission in New Delhi expressed concern over the incidents, and said the matters were under investigation. PTI

‘States fall short of target to improve forest cover, quality’

Centre approved plan for increasing tree cover by 53,377 ha, but only 26,287 ha has been achieved; forest quality improved in only 1,02,096 ha against the target of 1,66,656 ha, says RTI response

Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is lagging behind in the targets to increase the number and quality of tree- and forest-cover plantations set in the Green India Mission, according to data accessed through the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India’s forest cover and responding to climate change.

The target under the Mission is 10 million hectares (mha) of forest and non-forest lands for increasing the forest and tree cover and improving the quality of existing forests. Improving tree cover is critical to sequester carbon and bolster India’s carbon stocks as part of its international commitments to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Targets not met

From 2015-16 to 2021-22, the Centre, based on submissions from 17 States, had approved a target of increasing tree and forest cover by 53,377 hectares and improving the quality of degraded forest by 1,66,656 ha.

In response to queries by a Kerala-based RTI campaigner, Govindan Nampoothiry, the Environment Ministry this month responded with figures from 17 States noting tree/forest cover had increased by 26,287 hectares and forest quality improved in only 1,02,096 hectares as of December 31, 2022.

For executing these projects, the Union government had allocated ₹681 crore but only ₹525 crore had been utilised, the Ministry revealed.

The States with a significant shortfall in tree cover include Andhra Pradesh, with a target of 186 ha but having only achieved 75 ha; Uttarakhand with a target of 6,446 ha but only 1,505 ha achieved; Madhya Pradesh targeting 5,858 ha but delivering 1,882 ha; and Kerala committing 1,686 ha but furnishing 616 ha.

Punjab, however, committed to 629 ha but delivered 1,082 ha.

Forest cover increase

As per the India State of Forest Report-2021, forest and tree cover in the country increased by 2,261 square kilometres since the last assessment in 2019. India’s total forest and tree cover was 80.9 million hectares, which accounted for 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.

The report said 17 States and Union Territories had more than 33% of their area under forest cover. Madhya Pradesh had the largest forest cover, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. The top five States in terms of forest cover as a percentage of their total geographical area were Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.9%).

However, critics said the increase in green cover was almost entirely via commercial plantations, that, in an ecological sense, could not compensate for natural forests and their biodiversity and, being monocultures, were susceptible to pest attacks.

Status check

The table shows State-wise physical progress under the Green India Mission. It lists the targeted increase in tree cover, achievement and shortfall for select States

T. APPALA NAIDU

Green cover: A view of a forest in Andhra Pradesh.

State	Target	Achievement	Shortfall
Uttarakhand	6,446	1,505	-4,941
Madhya Pradesh	5,858	1,882	-3,976
Kerala	1,686	616	-1,070
West Bengal	558	175	-383
Maharashtra	1,316	933	-383
Andhra Pradesh	186	75	-111

All figures are in hectares

Private hospitals with advance orders to get intranasal shots soon

New entrant: Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya, Jitendra Singh and Suchitra Ella, co-founder and MD of Bharat Biotech, during the launch of iNCOVACC in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Thursday launched the intranasal COVID-19 vaccine iNCOVACC manufactured by the Hyderabad-based vaccine developer Bharat Biotech International Ltd. (BBIL).

The vaccine is expected to be rolled out in private hospitals that have placed advance orders. It is priced at ₹800 a dose in private hospitals. For large volume procurement by the States and the Union government, it is priced at ₹325 a dose.

An initial manufacturing capacity of several million doses a year has been established for the vaccine, and this can be scaled up to a billion doses as required, said a BBIL spokesperson.

It is the world’s first intranasal vaccine for COVID to receive approval for the primary two-dose schedule, and as a heterologous booster dose, administered as nasal drops. This means that those who have previously taken vaccines such as Covishield or Covaxin can take a booster dose of iNCOVACC.

The BBIL spokesperson further said that Phase-3 trials (as a two-dose regimen) of the vaccine were conducted for safety and immunogenicity in up to 3,100 subjects. “iNCOVACC recipients demonstrated significant levels of Mucosal IgA antibody levels. Mucosal IgA antibodies in the upper respiratory tract may provide benefit in reducing infections and transmission,” the BBIL said in a statement.

TH CROSSWORD + 13773

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY

Across

1 Sister accepting a church's suggestion (6)
4 Spice shelf mostly returned to daughter by a mother (8)
9 Reportedly country provides oil (6)
10 One lamp lit in study to find fault (8)
12 Economic imbalance of area housing elderly in retirement (5,3)
13 He shoots needles from behind with hesitation (6)
15 They're exchanged by participants in union? (7,5)
18 Concerned with feasting - not grand or massive (12)
21 European entering international transaction for old specialist (6)
22 Turn very appealing to block the French kiss (8)
24 Discuss in college about poetry (8)
25 Satisfied to consume rough food grain (6)
26 Doctor, mayor and general returning to fish (5,3)
27 Note to seize free capital of Yemen 24 hours before the weekend (6)

Down

1 Work long with one who turns in late? (5,3)
2 Structure deal with assistant in city (8)
3 Guys err in process of reconstruction (8,7)
5 Crazy maiden hiding in America's fine (4)
6 Nehru admired Apu's versatile author (6,2,7)
7 French footballer's chart contains British exercise (6)
8 Say Om, engraved by craftsman traditionally (6)
11 What's naturally sweet like Mick of the Rolling stones? (7)
14 Main judge is fighting religious order (7)
16 Scribbled about women rocking cradles (8)
17 Infection at hospital ward luckily cleared out smoothly (8)
19 View the fab, futuristic mega slim terminals in electronic device (6)
20 Some stop energetic Rohit Sharma, for one (6)
23 Man, perhaps lives life on vacation (4)

SUDOKU

2				5				
	5	6			7			3
			2			4		8
	8			4	9		7	
5	7			6			8	9
	9		5	7			3	
1		7			5			
9			7			5	6	
				8				7

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

4	7	2	5	6	1	8	9	3
8	3	6	4	2	9	1	5	7
5	9	1	3	7	8	6	4	2
2	6	5	8	4	7	3	1	9
9	8	7	2	1	3	5	6	4
1	4	3	9	5	6	7	2	8
7	2	4	6	3	5	9	8	1
3	5	8	1	9	4	2	7	6
6	1	9	7	8	2	4	3	5

FAITH

Lessons from *Mahabharata*

The term Bharatam denotes victory in a sense. Reading *Mahabharatam* will make us victorious in our life. The Pandavas faced many challenges and finally emerged successful. We may also face challenges in our life and can follow the path shown by the Pandavas. Though Lord Krishna was far away, when Draupadi made a fervent appeal, the Lord rescued her from distress.

Sri Pillai Lokachariar says in Sri Vachana Bhushanam, even if God is far away, His names will come near us and save. No rules and regulations are stipulated to chant the name of God.

Krishna decided to go as an emissary on behalf of the Pandavas. He wanted to know the views of the Pandavas before going. When Krishna asked Sahadeva, reading the mind of Krishna, Sahadeva told that whatever Krishna opined will be acceptable to him.

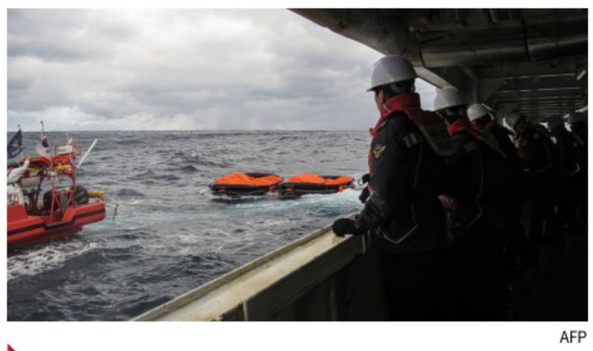
Finally, he pleaded with Krishna and tethered the divine feet of the Lord with his devotion as ropes. Krishna became motionless before his bhakti.

When Krishna asked Draupadi her views about waging a war with the Kauravas, she replied with all subtlety that you saved Prahlada and Gajendra and you know it better. This teaches us that while praying to God we should not ask for anything. We have to worship as our duty, and He will save us as His duty, said Sri Nagai Mukundhan in a discourse.

The fact that God will come down from His position to any extent for the sake of His devotees can be seen from Lord Krishna going Himself as a messenger of the Pandavas whereas Lord Rama sent Hanuman for Him.

BEIJING

Eight persons, including 6 Chinese, die after ship sinks near Japan

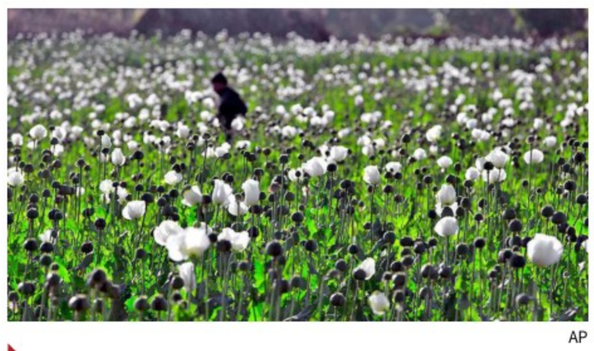


AFP

Eight people, including six Chinese nationals, are dead after a ship sank in waters off the coast of Japan, a Chinese diplomat and the Japanese Coast Guard said on Thursday. *Jin Tian*, carrying crew from China and Myanmar, sent a distress signal on Tuesday evening from a position around 110 kilometres west of Danjo Islands. AFP

BANGKOK

Myanmar opium farming booming after coup, says UN's drug office



AP

Opium poppy production in Myanmar ramped up dramatically following the 2021 military coup, the UN's drugs office said on Thursday. The area of land used for opium poppy cultivation expanded by a third to just over 40,000 hectares, said a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report. AFP

LIMA

Peru faces food, fuel shortages as Boluarte defiant in face of protests

AFP

Shortages in Peru of basic products, including fuel and food, mounted further on Wednesday, as the President remained defiant in the face of protests. Roadblocks are hindering freight deliveries to the country's south, where protests demanding the resignation of President Dina Boluarte have been most intense. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan's rupee plunges amid talks with IMF

AFP

Cash-strapped Pakistan's currency plunged on Thursday against the dollar after the government indicated it was ready to comply with tough conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the next tranche of bailout package. Pakistan is seeking a crucial installment of $1.1 billion from the fund to avoid default. AP

Russia downplays West's decision on tanks, strikes Ukraine again

West's move to send tanks to Ukraine was greeted enthusiastically in Kyiv, Berlin and Washington; Moscow launches another barrage of attacks on its neighbour maintaining that the new weapons will not stop it from achieving its goals

Associated Press

From Washington to Berlin to Kyiv, a Western decision to send battle tanks to Ukraine was hailed enthusiastically. Moscow first shrugged it off – and later launched another barrage of attacks.

The Kremlin has previously warned that such tank deliveries would be a dangerous escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, and it has strongly denounced the watershed move by Germany and the United States to send the heavy weaponry to its foe.

But it insists the new armour won't stop Russia from achieving its goals in Ukraine.

Back to shape: Workers repair power lines following a Russian missile strike on the industrial zone of Kyiv on Thursday. AFP

"The potential it gives to the Ukrainian armed forces is clearly exaggerated," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. "Those tanks will burn just like any others."

Moscow played down the move right after the announcement in an apparent attempt to save face as the West raised the stakes in Ukraine. Some Russian experts also emphasized that the supply of the deadly armour will be relatively limited and could take months to reach the front.

On Thursday, Russia launched a new wave of missiles and self-exploding drones across Ukraine – the latest in a series of strikes, many of which have targeted power plants and other key infrastructure.

Planned in advance

Russian military bloggers and commentators say that such attacks involve meticulous preparation – so the latest barrage was likely planned in advance and was not necessarily linked to the tank announcement.

Yohann Michel, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank, observed that while Western arms supplies irk Russia, it can do nothing to stop them. "It's a problem that they can't necessarily address," he said, noting that earlier decisions by the U.S. and its allies to supply air-defence weapons to Ukraine could have been even more worrying for Moscow.

President Vladimir Putin, his diplomats and military leaders have repeatedly warned the West that supplying long-range weapons capable of striking deep inside Russia would mark a red line and trigger a massive retaliation.

Meanwhile, Russian authorities designated the independent news outlet *Meduza* an "undesirable organisation" on Thursday, effectively outlawing the site from operating in Russia and banning any Russian from aiding *Meduza* or its journalists.

10 killed in West Bank as Israel launches deadly raid

Agence France-Presse
JENIN

Israeli forces in the West Bank killed 10 Palestinians on Thursday, officials in the occupied territory said, nine of them in a raid the Israeli military described as a "counter-terrorism operation".

The bloodiest day in the West Bank in years erupted during a raid on the crowded refugee camp in the northern city of Jenin, where gunshots rang through the streets and smoke billowed from burning street barricades.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the death toll from the clashes rose to nine, including a woman, and that 20 people were wounded before the Israeli forces withdrew mid-morning.

The military said Israeli forces came under fire during a "counter-terrorism operation to apprehend an Islamic Jihad terror squad" and shot several enemy combatants. Since its records began in 2005, the United Nations has never recorded such a high death toll in a single operation in the West Bank.

Going ballistic: A man fires his gun into the air as Palestinians carry the body of one of the victims killed in the West Bank. AFP

Cutting ties

A tenth Palestinian was subsequently shot dead by Israeli forces in Al-Ram, near Ramallah, the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

The official Palestinian news agency *Wafa* said he was shot in clashes which erupted during a protest against the killings in Jenin.

Among those confirmed dead in Jenin was Majeda Obeid, 61, who lived some metres from the house targeted by the Israeli forces.

The violence prompted the Palestinian Authority to announce it was cutting security coordination with Israel, a move criticised by the United States.

COVID deaths down by nearly 80%, says China

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

The number of daily COVID-19 deaths in China has fallen by nearly 80% since the start of the month, authorities have said, in a sign that the country's unprecedented infection surge may have started to abate.

A wave of virus cases has washed over the world's most populous nation since Beijing abruptly ended its zero-COVID policy last month. Beijing's figures are believed to only represent a fraction of the true toll, given China's definition of a COVID death.

Trump to be allowed on Facebook: Meta

Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

Social networking giant Meta announced Tuesday it would soon reinstate former U.S. President Donald Trump's accounts on Facebook and Instagram, two years after he was banned over the 2021 U.S. Capitol insurrection.

"We will be reinstating Mr. Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts in the coming weeks," Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, said in a statement, adding that the move would come with "new guardrails in place to deter repeat offences."

Going forward, the Republican leader – who has already declared himself a 2024 presidential candidate – could be suspended for up to two years for each violation of platform policies, Mr. Clegg said.

However, it was not clear when or if Mr. Trump will return to the platforms.

Donald Trump

'Leopard tanks to arrive in Ukraine around late March'

Agence France-Presse
MÖCKERN

Leopard tanks pledged by Germany to help Ukraine repel Russia's invasion will arrive in "late March, early April", Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said on Thursday.

Training of Ukrainian troops on German Marder infantry fighting vehicles will start in the next few days, he added, "and for the Ukrainian soldiers who will be trained on the Leopard, it will be a little later". Berlin finally agreed to deliver the powerful German-made Leopard tanks on Wednesday after weeks of intense pressure from Kyiv and many of its European allies. Germany will provide 14 Leopard-2 A6 tanks from its Bundeswehr supplies, Chancellor Olaf Scholz told the German Parliament.

Best performer

It is also granting approval for other European countries to send the German-made tanks from their own stocks to Ukraine, with the aim of quickly assembling "two tank battalions with Leopard-2 tanks for Ukraine", Mr. Scholz said.

The Leopard-2 is seen as one of the best-performing tank models worldwide and is widely used across Europe, meaning spare parts and ammunition can be easily obtained.

The United States later also said it would send 31 Abrams tanks, one of the most powerful and sophisticated weapons in the U.S. Army.

Although Western countries have already sent Ukraine missiles and defence systems, tanks were considered a step too far, risking a backlash from Russia.

Thai court jails activist for 28 years for royal defamation

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

A Thai court sentenced a man to 28 years in prison for insulting the monarchy in online posts, his lawyer said on Thursday.

The kingdom's *lese-majeste* laws are among the harshest in the world and rights groups say they are misused to suppress public debate.

A court in the northern city of Chiang Rai found Mongkol Tirakote, 29, an online clothing vendor and activist, guilty in two separate royal defamation cases. His prison sentence was originally 42 years but the court reduced it following his testimony, his lawyer said. His lawyer added that Mr. Mongkol intended to lodge an appeal and the court granted him bail of 300,000 baht ($9,100).

These *lese-majeste* laws are among the harshest in the world and are said to be misused to suppress public debate

Royal defamation convictions in Thailand can carry a jail sentence of up to 15 years per charge.

Mr. Mongkol also faces a third, separate royal defamation charge over online posts from last year and will be back in court in March.

Human Rights Watch senior researcher Sunai Phasuk said the 28-year sentence was the second-highest prison term handed down by a Thai court for a royal defamation case.

In 2021, a Thai court handed down a record 43-year sentence to a woman identified only as Ms. Anchan for insulting the monarchy. Ms. Anchan's last name was withheld by human rights lawyers to protect her relatives.

Ostensibly meant to shield the Thai royal family from defamation, insults or threats, section 112 of the penal code is broadly interpreted to include any criticism of the monarchy.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise and Group Company of IndianOil)
Regd. Office: 536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600 018
Website: www.cpcl.co.in ; Email id: shankarp@cpcl.co.in, investors@cpcl.co.in
Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DEC 31, 2022

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended	Three Months Ended			Nine Months Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022	31.12.2022	30.09.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.03.2022
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations	19214.18	22894.37	13591.70	69558.07	39477.16	60474.29	19214.18	22894.37	13591.70	69558.07	39477.16	60474.29
	Other Income	4.19	11.93	0.57	20.06	10.33	23.66	4.19	4.00	0.57	12.13	4.41	17.74
	Total Income	**19218.37**	**22906.30**	**13592.27**	**69578.13**	**39487.49**	**60497.95**	**19218.37**	**22898.37**	**13592.27**	**69570.20**	**39481.57**	**60492.03**
	Total Expenditure	19032.11	22870.80	13290.93	66157.06	39022.83	58666.31	19032.10	22870.74	13290.82	66157.03	39022.82	58666.37
2.	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)**	**186.26**	**35.50**	**301.34**	**3421.07**	**464.66**	**1831.64**	**187.51**	**24.55**	**304.95**	**3410.20**	**466.78**	**1841.25**
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	186.26	35.50	301.34	3421.07	464.66	1831.64	187.51	24.55	304.95	3410.20	466.78	1841.25
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	142.95	27.88	228.83	2529.63	348.01	1342.42	144.20	16.93	232.44	2518.76	350.13	1352.03
5.	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**142.95**	**27.88**	**228.83**	**2529.63**	**348.01**	**1365.66**	**144.20**	**16.93**	**232.44**	**2518.76**	**350.13**	**1375.53**
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				4891.13	1373.63	2391.28				5076.77	1562.38	2587.78
8.	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04	250.04
9.	Networth				5290.08	1772.58	2790.23				5475.72	1961.33	2986.73
10.	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				2730.00	2730.00	2730.00				2730.00	2730.00	2730.00
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 {2020:50,00,00,000}Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	1.35	1.45	6.20	1.35	6.20	3.31	1.30	1.40	5.60	1.30	5.60	3.09
13.	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)												
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	9.60	1.87	15.37	169.87	23.37	90.15	9.68	1.14	15.61	169.14	23.51	90.80
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	9.60	1.87	15.37	169.87	23.37	90.15	9.68	1.14	15.61	169.14	23.51	90.80
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	1000.00	1000.00	600.00	1000.00	600.00	700.00	1000.00	1000.00	600.00	1000.00	600.00	700.00
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	3.54	3.71	0.93	5.80	1.39	2.57	3.63	3.60	0.94	5.83	1.40	2.60
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	4.02	3.90	4.83	16.60	3.64	6.66	4.03	3.72	4.86	16.55	3.65	6.69

Note: 1
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Rajeev Ailawadi
Director (Finance)
DIN: 07826722

Place : Chennai
Date : January 25, 2023

INBRIEF

Macleods recalls 10,000 units of anti-bacterial drug in U.S.

Macleods Pharmaceuticals is recalling about 10,000 bottles of generic antibiotic medication in the U.S. market due to a labelling error, according to the the U.S. health regulator. As per the latest enforcement report by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S.FDA), Macleods Pharma Inc., a U.S-based unit of the company, is recalling 10,052 bottles of Levofloxacin tablets, which are used to treat different types of bacterial infections. PTI

Suzuki to unveil six models of battery EVs in India by FY30

Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp. said it would unveil six battery electric vehicles in India by FY30 as part of its growth strategy, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2070 as per the target set by the government. In the growth strategy for FY2030 shared on the BSE by the automaker's Indian arm Maruti Suzuki India, Suzuki Motor Corp. said by FY30, battery EVs would account for 15% of total product portfolio, internal combustion engine vehicles, 60% and hybrid EVs 25%. PTI

DLF 9-month bookings rise 45%, sales may hit ₹8,000 cr.

Realty major DLF Ltd. sales bookings grew 45% to ₹6,599 crore in April-December this fiscal on better demand and is on track to achieve its annual sales guidance of ₹8,000 crore, a senior company official said. "The sales are driven by demand for good quality products," DLF Group ED and Chief Business Officer Aakash Ohri told PTI, adding the company has given a guidance of ₹8,000 crore for the 2022-23 fiscal and is expected to achieve it comfortably. PTI

U.S. economic growth beat forecasts in Q4 as consumers raised spending

GDP expanded at a 2.9% annualised rate last quarter, the Commerce Department said in its advance growth estimate; even as the pace slowed from the July-September quarter's 3.2% increase, it exceeded economists' forecast for a 2.6% expansion

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. economy maintained a strong pace of growth in the fourth quarter as consumers boosted spending on goods, but momentum appears to have slowed considerably towards the end of the year, with higher interest rates eroding demand.

Gross domestic product increased at a 2.9% annualised rate last quarter, the Commerce Department said in its advance GDP growth estimate on Thursday. The economy grew 3.2% in the third quarter. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast GDP rising at a 2.6% rate.

Still growing

Growth in the world's largest economy slowed in the last quarter of 2022, U.S. official advance estimates show but the pace of expansion surprisingly exceeded expectations

- Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of U.S. GDP, slowed in Nov.-Dec. as higher interest rates hurt demand
- Spending has been undergirded by labour market resilience and savings accumulated during the pandemic
- For all of 2022, GDP grew 2.1%, sharply slower than the previous year's 5.9% pace

That could be the last quarter of solid growth before the lagged effects of the Federal Reserve's fastest monetary policy tightening since the 1980s kick in. Most economists expect a recession by the second half of 2023, though milder than in past downturns.

Retail sales have weakened sharply over the last two months and manufacturing looks to have joined the housing market in recession. While the labour market remains strong, business sentiment continues to sour, which could eventually hurt hiring.

For all of 2022, the economy expanded 2.1%, sharply slower than 2021's 5.9%. The Fed last year raised its policy rate by 425 basis points from near zero to a 4.25%-4.50% range, the highest since late 2007.

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, was the main driver, mostly reflecting a surge in goods spending at the start of the quarter. Spending has been underpinned by labour market resilience and savings accumulated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FinMin said to mull Budget sops for the middle class

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is considering proposals to benefit the middle class in the last full Budget of the current NDA government to be presented on February 1 in the Lok Sabha.

The Ministry is looking into proposals sent by various government departments on specific steps which may be announced in the Budget, benefitting a large section of the middle class, sources said.

Exemption limit

The Centre has not raised income tax exemption limit from ₹2.5 lakh fixed in 2014 by the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his first Budget.

Also the standard deduction has remained at ₹50,000 since 2019. Several experts are of the opinion that the exemption limit as well as standard deduction need to be increased to compensate salaried middle class for elevated levels of inflation.

The recent statement of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that she was aware of pressures of the middle class has raised hope that some incentives may be announced in the Budget. "I too belong to the middle class so I can understand the pressures of the middle class," she had said earlier this month.

In the same breath, she also pointed out that the present government had not imposed any fresh taxes on the middle class.

IBM, SAP add to tech layoffs, flag weakening IT demand

Reuters

IBM Corp. said it would lay off 3,900 people as part of some asset divestments and posted flat fourth-quarter revenue due to lacklustre demand for its consulting services.

Big Blue spun-off its large and laggard managed infrastructure business, now called Kyndryl, in late 2021 to focus on its hybrid-cloud, where it helps clients set up a combination of their own data centres and leased computing resources. It also divested its healthcare data and analytics business from its AI business Watson Health.

But the company's chief financial officer, James Kavanaugh, told Reuters that IBM would continue to hire in focus areas. "Unlike many others over the last 2 to 2-1/2 years that were hiring in tens and thousands of people ... we are leveraging digitisation, AI automation, that drives efficiency, but we are committed to hiring for client-facing research and development."

'SAP to cut 3,000 jobs'

Separately, SAP on Thursday said it plans to cut 3,000 jobs, or 2.5% of its global staff. With the planned job cuts, SAP joins other tech firms such as Microsoft and Amazon in turning to layoffs to cut costs. Analysts are worried the lucrative cloud segment for big tech firms could be hit as customers look to cut spending.

Pending orders jump to 4.05 lakh: Maruti

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The bookings for Jimny have crossed 11,000 units, while those for Fronx is about 4,000 units

Maruti Suzuki India's pending orders have jumped to about 4.05 lakh units this month as the inflow of bookings continued to be steady, while newly-introduced SUVs Jimny and Fronx also added to the numbers, according to a senior company official.

The bookings for Jimny have crossed 11,000 units, while those for Fronx is about 4,000 units.

In the third quarter ended December, the company's pending customer orders stood at about 3.63 lakh vehicles, of which about 1.19 lakh were for the newly-introduced models.

"We are at around 4,05,000 bookings (at present), which are pending, and that means that we are seeing in the flow of bookings and of inquiries at a pretty good level," senior executive officer, Marketing & Sales, Shashank Srivastava, told PTI.

'Up to 1.2 lakh tech staff may face layoffs in India'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Indian technology services firms are currently encountering a 'problem of plenty' with staff and may lay off anywhere between 80,000 and 1,20,000 people over the next two quarters, as per HR sources.

Google – whose products allow it access to industry insights and market visibility – announcing plans to lay off 12,000 people a few days ago could serve as a signal to the rest of the tech industry, the HR professionals noted, adding that 'firing stories' were therefore likely to continue to appear for the next six months.

Decisions by bellwethers such as Google, Meta, Amazon and Microsoft would be taken seriously by the industry worldwide, and India would not be an exception even with the element of cost arbitrage, they cautioned.

'Hiring binge'

"Tech firms went into a hiring binge during the pandemic; now they have excess staff," said B.S. Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, a CXO recruitment firm. "The industry may lay off anywhere between 80,000 and 1,20,000 in the next two quarters."

Several HR officials are now learnt to be in the process of making a list of 'dispensable' employees in India while globally, 2-3% of tech workers would be laid off in the next quarter or two, according to the HR head of a large Indian IT services firm.

"There is fear of a large number of layoffs," said the HR head, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The HR community is currently analysing the situation in consultation with chief marketing officers and CEOs," he added.

'Potential benefit'

Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, a specialist staffing company, said there was reason for worry when large tech firms with 'loads of cash' lay off people in thousands.

"However, cost savings come into play when you fire them in high-cost geographies such as the U.S. [or] Europe," he said.

Also, historically, for every employee who got retrenched overseas, headcount may have been added in India at a lower cost, he pointed out.

Impact on freshers

Last year saw the largest-ever campus hiring by tech firms, after 10 years of lull, observers said. Leading players such as TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra and global players, as well as tier-2 and -3 firms hired more than 2.5 lakh freshers from Indian campuses last year.

"We saw huge campus hiring in 2022 after 10 years," Mr. Murthy said. "Markets did not show any bad signs until November. Now, we have to wait and see how many of these freshers, still in campuses, will be onboarded."

Who is behind Hindenburg, the firm that is shorting Adani?

Reuters
NEW YORK

Hindenburg is best known for its bet against electric truck maker Nikola, which generated 'a big win'

Short-seller Hindenburg Research disclosed on Wednesday short positions in India's Adani Group, citing potential stock manipulation and accounting fraud in a report.

The allegations sent bonds and shares in the Adani firms down. Hindenburg has a track-record of finding corporate wrongdoings and placing bets against the companies.

Founded in 2017 by Nathan Anderson, Hindenburg Research is a forensic financial research firm which analyses equity, credit and derivatives.

After finding potential wrongdoings, Hindenburg usually publishes a report explaining the case and bets against the target firm, hoping to make a profit.

Who is the founder?

Nathan Anderson, who graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in international business, started his career in finance at data company FactSet Research Systems Inc., where he worked with investment management companies.

Hindenburg is best known for its bet against electric truck maker Nikola Corp. in September 2020, which generated 'a big win,' he told the WSJ, declining to specify the amount. Hindenburg has flagged potential wrongdoing in at least 16 companies since 2017, according to its website. Last year, it took a short and then, a long position in Twitter Inc.

Sport

La Reina takes the honours in Wolf777 Bangalore Derby

RACING

BENGALURU: S. Padmanabhan-trained La Reina (Neeraj Rawal up) won the Wolf777 Bangalore Derby, the chief event of the races held here on Thursday (Jan. 26).

The winner is owned by Queen Gambit Racing Syndicate.

Neeraj Rawal kept his filly third or fourth for a while, then racing second position from 1,600m before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. La Reina responded well to the reminders and started galloping tremendously to pass the leader Prague near 400m and won resolutely.

THE RESULTS:

1. TOTALIZATOR CUP (Div. III): **THE REPUBLIC POWER** (Sai Kiran) 1, Empire Of Dreams (Trevor) 2, Sling Shot (S. Saqlain) 3 and Mighty Swallow (Sandesh) 4. Not run: Born Dancer. 3-3/4, Snk and 2. 1m 13.06s. ₹42 (w), 17, 11 and 10 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 30, FP: 116, Q: 45, Trinella: 224, Exacta: 1,093. Favourite: Empire Of Dreams.
Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

2. SADDLE UP PLATE: OOH LA LA (P. Mani) 1, The Strikingly (Sai Kiran) 2, Sunway Lagoon (A. Imran) 3 and Chiraag (M. Chandrashekar) 4. Not run: Max Mueller. 2-3/4, 2 and 1-3/4. 1m 13.16s. ₹30 (w), 15, 16 and 11 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 62, FP: 129, Q: 80, Trinella: 562, Exacta: 3,749. Favourite: Ooh La La.
Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: Mahmood Khan.

3. TOTALIZATOR CUP (Div. II): **TRIPITAKA** (L.A. Rozario) 1, Stunning Beauty (Sai Kiran) 2, Sheer Bliss (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Agera (R. Pradeep) 4. Not run: Chul Bul Rani. Nk, 1-1/2 and Shd. 1m 13.84s. ₹30 (w), 12, 16 and 26 (p), SHP: 59, THP: 48, FP: 186, Q: 107, Trinella: 1,179, Exacta: 14,188. Favourite: Maroon.
Owners: Mrs. Mahima Shailesh, Sans Craintes Stud Farm [p] Ltd & Dr. Dayananda Pai P. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4. MYSORE RACE CLUB TROPHY: DEL PICO (S. Saqlain) 1, Ruling Dynasty (Akshay K) 2, Auspicious Queen (Angad) 3 and Crown Witness (Suraj) 4. Not run: Regal Aristocracy. 3, Nk and 1/2. 1m 25.98s. ₹51 (w), 14, 11 and 60 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 162, FP: 141, Q: 53, Trinella: 3,897, Exacta: 15,269. Favourite: Ruling Dynasty. Owner: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

5. VIDHANA SOUDHA CUP: INYOUWEBELIEVE (Trevor) 1, Rapidus (Akshay K) 2, Roudy (A. Imran) 3 and Only You (Sandesh) 4. 1/2, 2-3/4 and 1. 1m 36.75s. ₹18 (w), 11, 12 and 20 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 46, FP: 39, Q: 23, Trinella: 264, Exacta: 493. Favourite: Inyouwebelieve.
Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

6. INDIAN REPUBLIC TROPHY: COOL RIDER (Likith Appu) 1, Isnt She Beautiful (Neeraj) 2, Aztec Queen (Akshay K) 3 and De Villiers (Trevor) 4. 3/4, Lnk and 1. 1m 11.30s. ₹106 (w), 22, 12 and 16 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 36, FP: 369, Q: 170, Trinella: 2,120, Exacta: 8,230. Favourite: Isnt She Beautiful.
Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & Mr. Anjan Kumar Rangaraj and Mr. Roopesh S. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

7. WOLF777 BANGALORE DERBY: LA REINA (Planetaire-Firemiss) Neeraj 1, Last Wish (Top Class-Marilyn) C.S. Jodha 2, Ashwa Magadheera (Kingda Ka-Mesmerized) Suraj 3 and Trevalius (Multidimensional-Scarborough Fair) Srinath 4. 3-1/4 and 1/2 and Lnk. 2m 31.62s. ₹35 (w), 15, 80 and 15 (p), SHP: 203, THP: 51, FP: 1,239, Q: 849, Trinella: 4,551, Exacta: 24,739. Favourite: Ashwa Magadheera.
Owner: Queen Gambit Racing Syndicate. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

8. T.B. HANUMANTHARAJ MEMORIAL TROPHY: PROMISE KEPT (S. John) 1, Flying Quest (Likith Appu) 2, Devils Magic (C.S. Jodha) 3 and Mystic Eye (Akshay K) 4. Not run: Smithsonian and Schafenberg. 1-1/4, 2-1/4 and Hd. 1m 12.33s. ₹55 (w), 19, 34 and 16 (p), SHP: 102, THP: 61, FP: 288, Q: 962, Trinella: 3,627, Exacta: 7,241. Favourite: Mystic Eye.
Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

9. TOTALIZATOR CUP (Div. I): **AMRELI** (Srinath) 1, Alcides Synergy (A. Imran) 2, Archway (Antony) 3 and Worldly Wise (I. Chisty) 4. 3/4, 4-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m 12.52s. ₹25 (w), 12, 22 and 24 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 67, FP: 155, Q: 92, Trinella: 1,079, Exacta: 10,680. Favourite: Amreli.
Owner: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.
Jackpot: ₹16,078 (12 tkts).
Runner-up: ₹4,352 (19 tkts);.
Treble (i): ₹2,196 (three tkts); (ii): ₹3,299 (three tkts); (iii): ₹499 (65 tkts).

Rewarding time: Shivkumar Kheny, chairman, BTC, and actor-dancer Samyuktha Hegde give away the winner's cheque in respect of the Wolf 777 Bangalore Derby to the owners of Queen Gambit Racing Syndicate, whose La Reina emerged victorious. K. MURALI KUMAR

Lakshya makes it to the quarterfinals; Saina crashes out

INDONESIA MASTERS

ANI
JAKARTA

India's Lakshya Sen, the seventh seed, entered the men's singles quarterfinals of the Indonesia Masters BWF Super 500 tournament tournament here on Thursday, coming from behind to put it across Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong, the world No. 28, 19-21, 21-8, 21-17 in the last 16.

Both players were evenly matched in the early exchanges and were tied 13-13 in the first game.

The Malaysian, however, broke free and took the lead.

Lakshya came back strongly and completely dominated the second game.

The final game was much closer and the Indian needed to win three straight points to guarantee his spot in the quarterfinals, and he was successful.

Later, Saina Nehwal was eliminated from women's singles competition after losing to Yue Han of China 21-15, 21-7-21.

Domination

Yue Han, the eighth seed, dictated the tempo of the contest from the outset, making it impossible for the Indian shuttler to gain a foothold in the contest.

SPECIAL GUEST

Dhoni pays a visit to the Indian dressing room, shares insights

Former India captain M.S. Dhoni visited the India dressing room on Thursday and interacted with the players ahead of the first T20I against New Zealand in Ranchi on Friday. Dhoni, who hails from the City, first interacted with Hardik Pandya and then was seen giving tips to young wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan.

FIXING IT

I decided to take responsibility and deal with my problems: Sabalenka

Aryna Sabalenka, who moved into her first Grand Slam final, said: "During the pre-season I spoke to my psychologist, saying: 'I feel like I have to deal with that by myself because every time hoping that someone will fix my problem, it's not fixing my problem.' I decided that I have to take responsibility and deal with that."

IKER'S DAY OUT

Guarrotxena's hat-trick lifts FC Goa to third place in ISL standings

Iker Guarrotxena scored a hat-trick inside the opening quarter, the fastest of this season, to lift FC Goa to third place in the Indian Super League (ISL) standings after a 4-2 victory over East Bengal FC in Goa on Thursday. Brandon Fernandes scored the other goal in the 53rd. Sarthak Golui (59th) and V.P. Suhair (66th) reduced the margin.

ALL FOR PRIDE

It was important to play well against Japan, says coach Reid

"It was a tough three days. Everyone had a mixture of feelings — disappointment and frustration — that we had let people down. We will be playing Japan in the Asian Games and it was important to play well today, and also for our pride," said India head coach Graham Reid after the 8-0 win in a classification match on Thursday.

Cracking it: Harmanpreet, who was struggling to find the target in penalty corners, finally found his footing. PTI

India proves too hot for Japan

Harmanpreet's men slam home eight goals past the hapless Japanese; the skipper and Abhishek score a brace each; Vivek Sagar, too, shines

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

There were no big celebrations from skipper Harmanpreet Singh after he scored off a penalty corner. It was the fifth goal in the 8-0 rout of Japan in the qualification playoff game and his first penalty corner conversion of this year's World Cup with a goalkeeper guarding the citadel.

Harmanpreet and his men gave the 20,000 fans who thronged the Birsa Munda International Stadium a night to celebrate.

After the painful exit last weekend, head coach Graham Reid would have been keen to rectify the errors. Though the Indians began slowly, they went on a goal-scoring spree in the third quarter. The quickfire strikes from Mandeep Singh and Abhishek eased nerves before defender Vivek Sagar Prasad, who had a good game, got on the scoresheet once and assisted in another as the hosts pulled away to a 4-0 lead.

In the opening 30 minutes, a sprightly Japanese side caused India problems with counter-attacks. It needed P.R. Sreejesh to bail the team out on multiple occasions.

India's penalty corner conversion rate had been a concern and finally a variation early on in the second half helped break the shackles.

From the second battery, Amit Rohidas flicked the ball to Mandeep who made a run from the wide circle to deflect it into the roof of the net.

Vivek Sagar then found Abhishek in space inside the circle and the latter reverse-flicked the ball home.

The former was alert once again as he picked up a loose ball outside the circle and fed Abhishek, whose powerful shot gave Yoshikawa no chance.

Harmanpreet, whose drag-flicks kept finding the defenders, scored twice in the fourth quarter.

Manpreet Singh's tireless efforts were rewarded with a goal before Sukhjeet Singh scored off a rebound in the final minute.

India will take on South Africa on Saturday in the 9-12 classification match.

The results:
India 8 (Mandeep 32, Abhishek 35 & 43, Vivek Sagar 39, Harmanpreet 45 & 58, Manpreet 58, Sukhjeet 60) bt Japan 0.
South Africa 6 bt Malaysia 3; Wales drew with France 2-2, won 2-1 in shootout; Argentina 8 bt Chile 0.

Upbeat India will look to replicate ODI form in shortest format; Kiwis will aim to bounce back

NZ IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
RANCHI

Having been blanked 0-3 in the ODIs, New Zealand will be desperate for some respite in the three-match T20I-leg which commences with the first outing at the JSCA International Stadium Complex here on Friday.

Stellar record

But given India's stellar home record in T20Is, New Zealand's dry run could well continue. India has won 10 and drawn two of the last 12 bilateral T20I bouts played in this country, with the last series loss dating back to February 2019 (against Australia).

India also came out on top in the three-match T20I-leg when the side toured New Zealand in November last year.

India has made significant personnel changes from the squad that stayed unbeaten in the ODIs.

Rohit Sharma misses out, as does Virat Kohli. Hardik Pandya, who led the unit in the T20Is against Sri Lanka earlier this month, will continue as captain.

Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami – the best pacers on view in the ODIs – make way for Arshdeep Singh, Shivam Mavi and uncapped Mukesh Kumar.

Mumbai batter Prithvi Shaw makes his comeback into the India squad, on the back of a great run in domestic cricket.

However, Shubman Gill – the standout performer in the preceding leg – is likely to make his mark in the shortest format.

Suryakumar Yadav had a disappointing run in the ODIs, but New Zealand will be aware that it is in T20Is that he truly excels. Suryakumar, numero uno in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings, has set the bar high with his range of unorthodox, fearless shots.

Ishan Kishan, who managed only 30 runs in the three ODIs, must get his act together. Batter Ruturaj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the three T20Is due to a wrist injury. There will be no replacement for him.

Vidarbha cricketer Jitesh Sharma, who replaced an injured Sanju Samson in the Sri Lanka T20Is, could find a spot as wicketkeeper-batter if Kishan is dropped.

Resurgence

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has enjoyed a resurgence in India colours. After a while in the wilderness, Kuldeep has recently proved his worth in 50-over cricket.

Kuldeep last played a T20I in August last year, and will be eager to hit the ground running in his return to this format.

New Zealand will be led by all-rounder Mitchell Santner. Left-arm fast bowler Ben Lister, who did well in the Super Smash, is in line to earn his maiden international cap.

"We've seen a lot of Lister over the last couple of years. He has grown tremendously as a bowler.

"His left-arm angle which swings away from the right-hander is something new and different. He's also been bowling pretty good wheels," Santner said in a press conference here on Thursday.

The teams (from):
India: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-capt.), Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi, Prithvi Shaw, and Mukesh Kumar.
New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Finn Allen, Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Dane Cleaver, Devon Conway, Jacob Duffy, Lockie Ferguson, Ben Lister, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Michael Rippon, Henry Shipley, Ish Sodhi, and Blair Tickner.
Match starts at 7 p.m.

All ears: Gill, who is in red-hot form, having a chat with Dravid during training. PTI

India-New Zealand H2H in T20Is

	Matches	India	New Zealand	Tied
Overall	22	12	9	1
In India	8	5	3	0

THE SCHEDULE
First T20I: Jan. 27, Ranchi | **Second T20I:** Jan. 29, Lucknow
Third T20I: Feb. 1, Ahmedabad *All matches start at 7 p.m.*

Gill gets Hardik's nod over Shaw for opener's slot

Ashwin Achal
RANCHI

Skipper Hardik Pandya stated that Prithvi Shaw will have to wait for his chance to feature in the India XI, given that fellow-opener Shubman Gill is among the runs.

Asked if Shaw will be seen in action in the first T20I against New Zealand, Hardik said, "No. Shubman has done very well. So he will get the first opportunity, given the way he is batting and the fact that he has already been with the team." Ishan Kishan is the other opener available for selection.

Hardik is happy to play in M.S. Dhoni's hometown, and spoke about meeting the former India captain. "Mahi (Dhoni) is here, and we got the chance to meet him. When we travel to various cities to play matches, we usually don't leave the hotel. But since Mahi bhai is here, we get the chance to leave the hotel and meet him," Hardik said here on Thursday.

Asked if he took any cricket tips from Dhoni, Hardik said, "No. I took all the tips when I was playing with him. Now when we meet, we keep cricket aside and talk about life."

Rybakina ends Azarenka's run, books meeting with Sabalenka

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Reuters
MELBOURNE

Elena Rybakina won a duel of Grand Slam champions to reach her first Australian Open final where she will meet Aryna Sabalenka after the Belarusian shrugged off her semifinal hoodoo at the majors.

Rybakina claimed a 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over two-time champion Victoria Azarenka in the first semifinal on Thursday, ending the chance of an awkward all-Belarusian summit clash for the organisers.

Fifth seed Sabalenka beat Magda Linette 7-6(1), 6-2 in the late match at Rod Laver Arena, reaching her first Grand Slam final after falling at the semifinal hurdle thrice before. The title match will pair two big-serving, baseline pounders with contrasting personalities.

Rybakina had to come back from a break down in the first set against the feisty 24th seed Azarenka, who was chasing her third title after winning back-to-back titles in 2012-13. The Kazakh, seeded 22nd, held her nerve as Azarenka floundered in a messy first set tiebreak, then roared on to a 5-2 lead over the Belarusian in the second set. Though she suffered a wobble when serving for the set, Rybakina was gifted three match points when Azarenka double-faulted in the next game.

Azarenka saved one match point but her bid for a third title ended flatly, with a backhand hammered into the net. Sabalenka joined Rybakina in the final after a cold start on a chilly evening.

Broken in the first game of the first set, Sabalenka pressured Linette's serve to take the tie-breaker before racing away in the second.

The results:
Women's semifinals:
22-Rybakina (Kaz) bt 24-Azarenka (Blr) 7-6(4), 6-3; 5-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Magda Linette (Pol) 7-6(1), 6-2.

The day in numbers

1 Elena Rybakina has dropped just one set on her way to the final of Australian Open 2023. The Kazakh had dropped just one set till the final at Wimbledon 2022, too

3 Rybakina is the first woman to defeat three former Grand Slam champions (Iga Swiatek, Jelena Ostapenko and Victoria Azarenka) in a single edition of the Australian Open since Jennifer Capriati in 2001 (Hingis, Davenport and Seles)

6 Rinky Hijikata and Jason Kubler became the sixth all-Aussie pair to reach the Australian Open men's doubles final

10 Aryna Sabalenka has won her first 10 matches of the season. Eight of the last 10 women to do so have been World No. 1 at least once in their careers (Ashleigh Barty, Naomi Osaka, Karolina Pliskova, Angelique Kerber, Simona Halep, Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova and Azarenka)

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

Numbers favour Australia as it meets Germany in semifinals

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

A circumspect Australia will be hoping to find its rhythm and keep its victory-streak intact against a resurgent Germany when the two face off in the World Cup semifinal here on Friday even as holder Belgium takes on Netherlands for a final spot.

Despite several close games and quite a few upsets, the existing top-order in world hockey has remained unchallenged in the tournament with the four top-ranked teams in the last four, reaching in vastly contrasting manner which makes calling favourites impossible.

That each of them has won the title previously – barring Belgium, all have been multiple-time champions – makes it tougher. Australia had a major scare against Spain in the quarterfinals and Argentina before that in the pool game while Germany had to overcome the crossovers and a dominant England.

Belgium and Netherlands had comparatively easier outings, but would be wary of their toughest test in the event so far.

Numbers favour World No. 1 Australia, which last lost to the Germans in the 2014 Champions Trophy and further back in 2006 in World Cups despite every match being closely contested.

Despite scoring the second-most number of goals (24), the team has often been slow off the blocks, instead building up pace and intensity through the game and relying on its resilience to stay undefeated.

The other semifinal will be a clash of the oldest and youngest sides in the competition playing a similar style. Netherlands has scored 27 goals so far but hasn't really found a tough opponent so far.

That could be Belgium and the Dutch would be wary of faltering at the first major hurdle.

Belgium, among the fittest teams here despite the age, has made optimum use of its experience.

Friday's semifinals:
Australia vs Germany (4.30 p.m.); Netherlands vs Belgium (7 p.m.).

INBRIEF

'Keeping players inspired for all formats is a global issue'

South Africa great A.B. de Villiers feels it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep players "inspired" for all three formats amid the punishing schedule, creating a pressing need for cricket boards and cricketers to have an honest communication over the latter's preferred choice of formats. "Because I don't want to be the guy to just say give up a format or two. And once again, it's a global cricketing issue at the moment to keep the players inspired to play all formats of the game for their countries," he said.

Gukesh outsmarts Praggnanandhaa

In a much-awaited clash involving two Chennai boys, D. Gukesh outwitted R. Praggnanandhaa in 40 moves in the 10th round of the Masters section of the Tata Steel chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, near Amsterdam, on Wednesday.

In another game of Indian interest, Arjun Erigaisi's search for his first victory continued after he drew with Fabiano Caruana.

Overnight leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov stayed on top after escaping with a draw against Ding Liren. Magnus Carlsen moved to joint third – one point behind Abdusattorov – after beating Parham Maghsoodloo. In the Challengers section, both B. Adhiban and R. Vaishali were involved in drawn encounters.

The results (10th round):

Masters: D. Gukesh (4) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (5); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5.5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (3.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7) drew with Ding Liren (Chn, 4.5); Wesley So (USA, 6) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 6.5); Richard Rapport (Rom, 5) drew with Levon Aronian (USA, 5.5); Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 4) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 6); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 4) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5).

Challengers: Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 7) drew with B. Adhiban (5.5); Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, 3.5) drew with R. Vaishali (4); Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 5) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 6.5); Velimir Ivic (Srb, 6) lost to Luis Supi (Bra, 4.5); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 4.5) lost to Alexander Donchenko (Ger, 7); Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 6) bt Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 5); Eline Roebers (Ned, 3) drew with Jergus Pechac (Svk, 2.5).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
BWF Indonesia Masters: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 a.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 HD & Hotstar, 4.30 & 7 p.m.
South Africa vs England: 1st ODI, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 p.m.
Formula E: Diriyah GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 & Hotstar, 6 p.m.
India vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Karnataka completes a clinical win over Jharkhand, storms into quarterfinals

Offie Gowtham scalps five to hasten the end of the home team's second innings; the visitors win by nine wickets to finish on top of the group with 35 points

RANJI TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Karnataka recorded a thumping nine-wicket win over Jharkhand on the third day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group 'C' encounter at the Keenan Stadium in Jamshedpur on Thursday.

The victory took the Mayank Agarwal-led side to 35 points from seven games, helping it seal top spot.

Its quarterfinal opponent will be known on Friday, after the rest of the matches conclude.

Karnataka's star on day three was offie K. Gowtham, finishing with five wickets (28-5-75-5) to take his match-haul to nine. From an overnight 85 for two, Jharkhand could score just 201, setting Karnataka a 66-run target.

The visitors knocked off the runs in 18.1 overs with Nikin Jose remaining unbeaten on 42 (45b, 9x4) and R. Samarth on 24 (62b, 2x4).

Bad start

Jharkhand started on the wrong foot, losing four wickets for just 22 runs in the first session, three of those going to Gowtham. Kumar Suraj and Virat Singh were both cleaned up by Gowtham before Koushik got the prized scalp of Saurabh Tiwary, caught behind by B.R. Sharath.

Stellar show: K. Gowtham was star of the day for Karnataka. FILE PHOTO: G. KARTHIKEYAN

Anukul Roy (36, 116b, 3x4) and Supriyo Chakraborty 48 (93b, 3x4, 2x6) put on 86 runs for seventh wicket to steady ship before Gowtham struck again, having Supriyo caught by wicketkeeper Sharath.

The innings soon folded, with leggie Shreyas Gopal and V. Koushik cleaning up the tail.

Chasing 66, Nikin scored 42 of the runs, hitting as many as nine boundaries. A ten-wicket win would have fetched Karnataka a bonus point, but in the end it didn't matter.

Karnataka's quarterfinal opponent will be known on Friday, after the rest of the matches conclude

The scores:
Jharkhand — 1st innings: 164.
Karnataka — 1st innings: 300.
Jharkhand — 2nd innings: Kumar Deobrat c Mayank b Gowtham 20, Aryaman Sen c Sharath b Koushik 0, Kumar Suraj b Gowtham 34, Kumar Kushagra c Shreyas b Gowtham 36, Virat Singh b Gowtham 1, Saurabh Tiwary c Sharath b Koushik 4, Anukul Roy c Nikin b Koushik 36, Supriyo Chakraborty c Sharath b Gowtham 48, Nadeem lbw b Shreyas 5, Ashish Kumar c Nikin b Shreyas 2, Vinayak Vikram (not out) 1; Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-2): 14; Total (in 78.5 overs): 201.
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-32, 3-86, 4-96, 5-107, 6-107, 7-193, 8-193, 9-198.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 6-1-17-0, Koushik 16-6-21-3, Shreyas 21.5-4-58-2, Gowtham 28-5-75-5, Shubhang Hegde 7-2-18-0.
Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth (not out) 24, Devdutt Padikkal c Supriyo b Nadeem 0, Nikin Jose (not out) 42; Total (for one wkt. in 18.1 overs): 66.
Fall of wicket: 1-1.
Jharkhand bowling: Nadeem 9-3-24-1, Anukul 8.1-1-31-0, Vinayak 1-0-11-0.

I am ready for Australia: Jadeja

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

"I am ready for Australia", declared a confident Ravindra Jadeja after his seven-wicket innings haul against Tamil Nadu in the Ranji game here on Thursday.

The left-arm spinning all-rounder from Saurashtra whose troublesome knee is being monitored in the match by the selectors ahead of the Australia series, said, "I am progressing well from my injury."

Jadeja added, "My fitness has grown over the three days I have played here." Jadeja conceded, "I pushed my body and tested my knee by bowling a 12-over spell today.

"That the pitch was helping the spinners also helped," he said.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES

Elite (round seven, day three):
Group-A: At Kolkata: Odisha 265 vs Bengal 100 in 35.5 overs & 220/3 in 62 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 94 batting, Sudip Kumar Gharami 50, Manoj Tiwary 50 batting).
At Rohtak: Haryana 233 in 71.3 overs (Kapil Hooda 42, Sumit Kumar 86, Avneesh Sudha 6/51) vs Uttarakhand 125/1 in 43 overs (Avneesh Sudha 61 batting).
At Nadaun: Himachal Pradesh 15/0 in 4.4 overs vs Uttar Pradesh.
At Vadodara: Baroda 561/6 decl. bt Nagaland 130 & 88 in 30.1 overs (Bhargav Bhatt 4/37, Ninad Rathva 4/32). **Points: Baroda 7 (21), Nagaland 0 (2).**
Group-B: At Vizianagaram: Assam 113 & 153 in 54.1 overs (Lalith Mohan 5/40) lost to Andhra 361. **Andhra 7 (26), Assam 0 (11).**
At Mumbai: Maharashtra 384 & 51/2 in 22 overs vs Mumbai 384 in 116 overs (Prasad Pawar 145, Tanush Kotian 93).
At Hyderabad: Hyderabad 355 & 90/5 in 31 overs (Harshit Rana 4/27) vs Delhi 433 in 100.5 overs (Ayush Badoni 191, Harshit Rana 58, Ajay Dev Goud 4/87, Anikethreddy 5/143).
At Chennai: Tamil Nadu 324 & 133 in 36.1 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 7/53) vs Saurashtra 192 in 79.4 overs (Chirag Jani 49) & 4/1 in 4 overs.
Group-C: At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 164 & 201 in 78.5 overs (Supriyo Chakraborty 48, Krishnappa Gowtham 5/75) lost to Karnataka 300 & 66/1 in 18.1 overs (Nikin Jose 42 n.o.).
Karnataka 6 (35), Jharkhand 0 (23).
At Raipur: Chhattisgarh 531/9 decl. vs. Goa 359 in 92.5 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 80, Snehal Kauthankar 147 n.o.) & 4 for no loss in 4 overs.
At Puducherry: Pondicherry 371 & 34/1 in 14 overs vs Kerala 286 in 113 overs (Salman Nizar 44, Akshay Chandran 70, Sagar Udeshi 5/62).
At Jodhpur: Services 178 & 276 in 103.5 overs (Ravi Chauhan 98, Lovekesh Bansal 50, Pulkit Narang 47 n.o., Aniket Choudhary 5/58) vs Rajasthan 136 & 107/6 in 38 overs (Yash Kothari 72, Pulkit Narang 4/20).
Group-D: At Indore: Tripura 362 vs Madhya Pradesh 159/2 in 57 overs (Yash Dubey 48 batting, Shubham Sharma 55).
At Ahmedabad: Railways 508 bt Gujarat 205 in 59.1 overs (Himanshu Sangwan 4/75) & 247 in 69.3 overs (Het Patel 84, Umang Kumar 42, Akash Pandey 6/65). **Railways 7 (22), Gujarat 0 (14).**
At Mohali: Vidarbha 88/2 in 31 overs vs Punjab.
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 18/0 in 6 overs vs J&K.
At Patna: Plate (final, day two): Bihar 532 in 124.4 overs (Sakibul Gani 205, Bipin Saurabh 155, L. Kishan Singha 4/141) vs Manipur 194/6 in 54.2 overs (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 50, Prafullomani Singh 82).

Double delight for Babar and Sciver at ICC Awards

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

It was double delight for Pakistan skipper Babar Azam as he was picked for both the 'ODI Cricketer of the Year' and the 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for the ICC Men's Cricketer of 2022 on Thursday.

The 2021 ICC Men's ODI Player of the Year continued to rule in the 50-over format, scoring 679 runs in nine matches and it was no surprise to see the 28-year-old win the title for the second successive year.

He continues to hold on to the top spot in the ODI Player Rankings. Babar only played nine ODIs but made it count, scoring 679 runs at an average of 84.87 with three centuries.

England skipper and all-rounder Ben Stokes, who redefined Test cricket in 2022, was adjudged the best in the longer format.

Since taking over as England captain, Stokes has led the team to nine wins from 10 Tests, completing series victories over New Zealand and South Africa at home, beating India in the one-off postponed Test to level the series at 2-2, and hammering Pakistan 3-0 away from home – England's best ever margin of victory in the country.

Sciver. FILE PHOTO

Stokes and Babar. AFP

Prior to his appointment as captain, England had been beaten in each of their four most recent completed series and had won just one of their previous 17 Tests.

England skipper and star all-rounder Nat Sciver also made it a double.

She was declared winner of the 'Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year' as well as the 'Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year'.

Sciver hit 1,346 runs and took 22 wickets in 33 matches in the year, captaining England for much of her side's home summer.

She was exceptional in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022, finishing as the tournament's third-highest scorer and playing a huge part in England's qualification for the final.

Englishman Richard Illingworth was adjudged 'ICC Umpire of Year' for a second time. In 2019 too he was adjudged the 'Best Umpire'.

The awards:
Men's Cricketer and ODI Cricketer: Babar Azam (Pakistan).
Women's Cricketer and ODI Cricketer: Nat Sciver (England);
Men's Test Cricketer: Ben Stokes (England).
Umpire: Richard Illingworth (England); **Spirit of Cricket**: Aasif Sheikh (Nepal).

Racing away: S. Amritha Varshini of Tamil Nadu in action against Maharashtra. SUDHAKARA JAIN

TN girls enter the final

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Tamil Nadu girls entered the final with a thumping 93-43 win over Maharashtra at the 72nd Junior National basketball championships here on Thursday.

The results (semifinals):
Men: Uttar Pradesh 91 (Kushal Singh 26, Harsh Dagar 23, Aman Kaushik 12) bt Tamil Nadu 41 (S. Pragalathan 12, S. Vijay Kumar 11); Rajasthan 101 (Ayush Choudhury 43, Ashit Hooda 23, Rahul 19) bt Punjab 89 (Bhanu Pratap Sood 20, Harmonjoth Singh Cheema 18, Sahirjit Singh 14).

Women: Tamil Nadu 93 (A. Nitika 21, Harima Sundari 15, K. Sathya 14, K. Deepthi 12, B. Hirani 10) bt Maharashtra 43 (Richa Ravi 14, Aanaya Bhavsar 10); Chhattisgarh 72 (Riya Pramod 26, Vidhya 12) bt Punjab 61 (Kavya 17, Komalpreeth 13, Manmeet Kaur 13).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Aaron Joshua comes to Parikrma's rescue

Aaron Joshua scored an injury-time equaliser as Parikrma FC drew with BTM FC 2-2 in the BDFA A-division league football here on Thursday.

The results:
BTM FC 2 (Rahul Krishna 29, Nakshatra Jain 69) drew with Parikrma FC 2 (Haris Rahman 36, Aaron Joshua 80+1); Income Tax FC 3 (Praveen Kumar 12, Anthony Vicky 40+2, Apeto Sema 80+3) bt Sree Gajanana FC 1 (N. Subramanian 19).

Brace by Khogeshwar

Khogeshwar scored a brace as Guru HC defeated Bombers Hockey Club 4-1 in the KSHA A-division hockey league here on Thursday.

The results: Guru HC 4 (Gangadhar Reddy 13, Vishnu Yadav 43, Khogeshwar 53, 58) bt Bombers Hockey Club 1 (Mayur Bopaiah 3); Young Star Hockey Club Raichur 3 (N.K. Vinayaka 14, Arjun 25, Shrikanth 31) bt 0.

South Africa faces England with WC qualification at stake

Agence France-Presse
BLOEMFONTEIN

South Africa goes into a One-Day International series against England in Bloemfontein on Friday needing a strong performance to ensure automatic qualification for the Cricket World Cup later this year.

The three-match series is part of the International Cricket Council's World Cup Super League, from which the top eight teams will qualify for the World Cup in India in October and November.

South Africa needs to win at least three of its remaining five fixtures - it also has to play two matches against the Netherlands - to climb above West Indies, which is currently in eighth place.

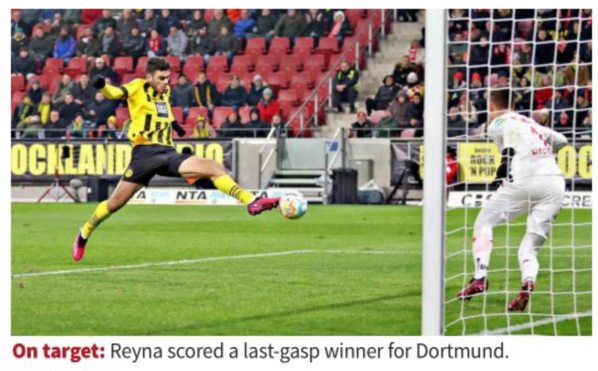
South Africa can guarantee qualification by winning all five of its remaining games.

Bavuma. GETTY IMAGES

Willey. GETTY IMAGES

The teams: (from):
South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Sisanda Magala, Keshav Maharaj, Janneman Malan, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi and Rassie van der Dussen.

England: Jos Buttler (Capt.& wk), Moeen Ali, Jofra Archer, Harry Brook, Sam Curran, Ben Duckett, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy, Phil Salt, Olly Stone, Reece Topley, David Willey and Chris Woakes.



On target: Reyna scored a last-gasp winner for Dortmund. GETTY IMAGES

Reyna delivers for Dortmund yet again

BUNDESLIGA

Agence France Presse
MAINZ

American striker Gio Reyna scored a last-gasp winner in Borussia Dortmund's 2-1 victory over Mainz in the Bundesliga on Wednesday, securing the three points deep into injury-time.

The 20-year-old US international Reyna also scored the fourth in Dortmund's 4-3 home win over Augsburg on Sunday.

Important results:
Mainz 1 (Lee 2) drew with Borussia Dortmund 2 (Ryerson 4, Reyna 90+3); Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Tapsoba 8-pen, Hlozek 53) bt Bochum 0; Freiburg 1 (Ginter 47) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Muani 42); Augsburg 1 (Berisha 82) bt Borussia Moenchengladbach 0; Werder Bremen 1 (Pieper 14) lost to Union Berlin 2 (Haberer 18, Behrens 46). **On Tuesday:** Bayern Munich 1 (Kimmich 90) drew with Cologne 1 (Skhiri 4).